Riding the waves

pages ten and eleven

Sexy, sexy death metal

page fifteen

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MARTLET

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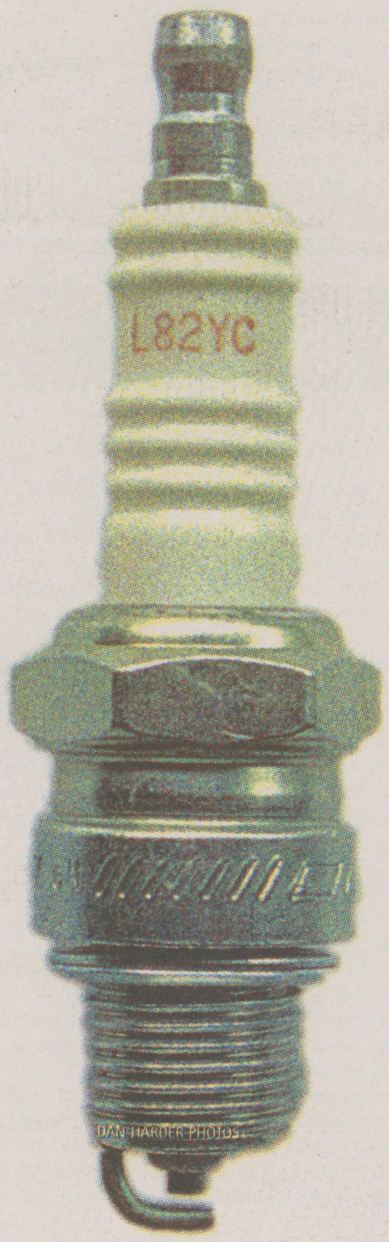
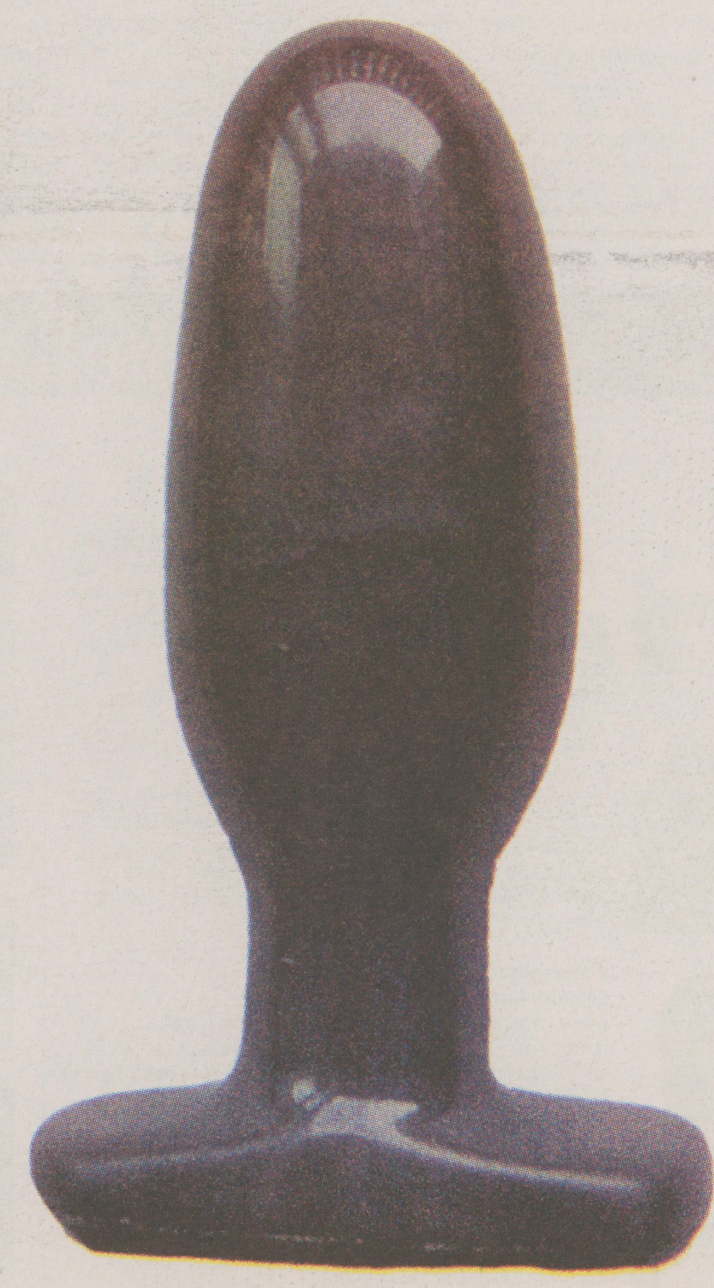
WRONG PLUG



RIGHT PLUG



Delving into female sexual education

page three

Aboriginal elders welcome law students

For the ninth year, Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Camp connects students and elders

by Michelle Martin

PROVIED PHOTO

Tsartlip Nation elders welcome 40 UVic students to the L'au,welnew Tribal School in Saanich.

On the first weekend of October, 40 mostly first-year law students gathered with aboriginal elders at the L'au,welnew Tribal School, Tsartlip Nation to take part in the ninth annual Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Camp (ACAC).

"It's an important concept," said second-year law student Derek Simon, one of the organizers of this year's camp. "The more people out there building bridges, the more we can do to improve aboriginal and non-aboriginal relations."

The ACAC was developed in 1996 to foster understanding between First Nations and members of the Canadian legal system. The camp creates an informal opportunity for law students, lawyers, judges, RCMP officers and First Nations individuals to meet on First Nations territory and learn, in a non-confrontational way, how the legal community and the First Nations can work together to create a better justice system for Canada's first people.

According to Professor John Borrows, Canada's leading indigenous law scholar and holder of the Law Foundation Chair of Aboriginal Justice and Governance, the camp serves an important purpose by "laying down some understanding of a community context . . . for thinking more broadly about the law."

Borrows said that the relationship between aboriginal methods of justice and the Canadian justice system "could be complimentary, [but] could be in conflict" as well.

"Many aboriginal systems of justice are more restorative, instead of focusing on deterrence," he said. He said that they often entail bringing people back into a sense of harmony with each other rather than laying guilt and blame.

Talking circles are a common method of restoring harmony and often include bringing together the offender, family members, community members, elders and the victim. These methods are not formally institutionalized in B.C., but are part of many First Nations' traditions.

Despite the ideological differences between the two approaches to law, there are ways that the two systems can work together. Borrows said that in Toronto, with its concentrated urban aboriginal population, boards of elders and community members work within the justice system to help aboriginal offenders reconnect with their culture.

This strategy greatly reduces the likelihood a person will re-offend. "The rate of re-offenders is around 80 per cent, but it is way less [with the aboriginal restorative strategy], to something like a quarter," he said.

Surprisingly, the legal applications of most of the camp's activities are not integrated into camp curriculum. "We tried to focus on the cultural aspects, then students could make the connections to legal implications later," said Simon.

Unlike camps in previous years, this year elders from all three of Vancouver Island's cultural groups attended. "We tried to show diversity of culture, as well as the unity and camaraderie," said Simon.

Over the four days, the campers took part in a variety of traditional activities, including a traditional sweat lodge ceremony, paddling in a traditional racing canoe, several early morning dips in the ocean, a talking circle and a smudge ceremony. The elders led the group through these activities as they explained their cultural significance.

For example, the smudge ceremony, where participants covered their bodies in smoke from burned sage in an abalone shell, and the sweat lodge served the purpose of purification and cleansing the mind. "Ceremonies like the sweat lodge and the smudge are difficult to explain, and kind of have to be experienced to be understood," said Simon.

First-time camper Kelsey Moore, a first-year law student, found that she learned much more than just the cultural practices. "It was more about understanding the reasons and meaning behind the traditions themselves," she said. "[The elders] welcome you into their family."

Campers from previous years have consistently commented that the talking circle was the most dramatic aspect of the camp. This year, one talking circle was held on the camp's final day. "I found it powerful. It solidified a bond between the people there . . . a lot of people were affected by it," said Moore.

This well-known camp has become a popular component of the law program—in fact, Simon said, there is a wait-list every year. Most of the 2004 organizers and volunteers were former camp participants eager to contribute to the continuation of the tradition. Similar camps exist throughout Canada with great success.

Simon hopes that more camps like this can be arranged on Vancouver Island. "If people are interested in starting something, there's tremendous opportunity to do so," he said.

He welcomes those interested to contact him at dsimon@uvic.ca.

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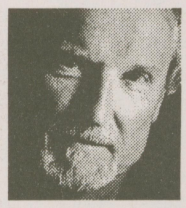


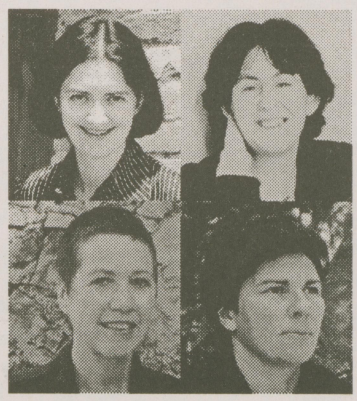
Richard B. Wright and Jack Hodgins
Monday October 18, 7:30 pm
Two of Canada's most celebrated writers! **Richard B. Wright** follows his Giller Prize-winning ***Clara Callan*** with ***Adultery***, a subtle, powerful story of one man's fall from grace and search for forgiveness. ***Damage Done by the Storm*** is the first collection of stories from Victoria's **Jack Hodgins** in more than two decades, featuring Hodgins' gift for narrative and his passion for characters.
At the Alix Goolden Performance Hall, 907 Pandora Ave. Tickets $7.

Linda McQuaig
Thursday October 28, 7:30 pm
In the tradition of Michael Moore and Noam Chomsky, but with a uniquely Canadian perspective, journalist and hell-raiser **Linda McQuaig** turns her attention to the global effects of our addiction to oil. From the invasion of Iraq to global warming, ***It's The Crude, Dude*** is a scathing, urgent examination of Big Oil. At the Fellowship Hall, First Meropolitan United Church, 932 Balmoral Road. Tickets $5.

Anthony Bourdain
Saturday November 6, 1 pm
A very special afternoon event! **Anthony Bourdain** is the bad boy of modern cuisine, a straight shooter who can walk the walk, and talk the talk. His previous books, ***Kitchen Confidential*** and ***A Cook's Tour*** are bestsellers and his new book, ***Anthony Bourdain's Les Halles Cookbook***, is a collection of strategies, recipes and techniques from this kitchen superstar. Don't miss what promises to be an outrageous afternoon. At the Alix Goolden Performance Hall, 907 Pandora Ave. Tickets $7.

Wade Davis
Thursday November 18, 7:30 pm
JUST ANNOUNCED!!! Canada's favourite explorer returns to Victoria. **Wade Davis** -- explorer, ethnobotanist and bestselling author of ***One River*** and ***The Serpent and the Rainbow*** -- will talk about his new book ***The Last Amazon***. Davis' last Victoria appearance sold out in less than a week -- buy your ticket early to avoid disappointment. At the Alix Goolden Performance Hall, 907 Pandora Ave. Tickets $7.

David Suzuki
Friday November 26, 7:30 pm
It is a story that spans a millenium and includes a cast of millions -- it is the story of a single tree. Renowned scientist and environmentalist **David Suzuki** turns his attention to ***Tree***, an example of the interconnectedness of nature -- the sacred balance -- the web of life that surrounds us. At the



Free events at Bolen Books

Alix Goolden Performance Hall, 907 Pandora Ave. Tickets $7.
Our four-star panel!
featuring Emma Donoghue, Isabel Huggan, Gillian Slovo, Helen Humphreys
Tuesday October 19 at 7 pm
Four superstars of contemporary literature in a panel discussion on the writing process, the role of fiction in modern society, the intersection of truth and fiction, and their own latest works.
Emma Donoghue follows ***Slammerkin*** with ***Life Mask,*** a galvanizing novel which explores a love triangle in the early nineteenth century. **Isabel Huggan's** ***Belonging***, which won the Charles Taylor Prize forLiterary Non-Fiction, expertly explores the borders between memoir and fiction.
Gillian Slovo will talk about her latest novel ***Ice Road*** which was shortlisted for this year's Orange Prize. Fresh from the success of the historically rooted ***The Lost Garden,*** **Helen Humpheys** returns with an edgy, contemporary urban novel ***Wild Dogs*** (Harper Collins Canada).
Don't miss what is sure to be one of the most memorable literary events of the year!

Bill Gaston, Miriam Toews and Kathy Page
Saturday October 23 at 7 pm
What better way to spend a Saturday night in Victoria than with readings by three of Canada's finest writers?
Fresh on the heels of his Giller Prize-nominated collection ***Mount Appetite*** **Bill Gaston** returns with a new novel ***Sointula***, the story of a modern-day female Quixote and her profane and awkward Sancho Panza.
A Complicated Kindness, the Giller nominated novel by **Miriam Toews**, took the country by storm this summer. The story of Nomi Nickel, a wry and wise young girl smothering in a small Mennonite community when she desperately wants to move to New York.
Longlisted for the Orange Prize for 2002's ***The Story of My Face***, **Kathy Page** returns with ***Alphabet***, a taut, suspenseful novel rooted firmly in an unforgettable main character.

Margaret Wente
Monday October 25 at 7 pm
Margaret Wente is one of Canada's favourite writers, with a fervent and loyal following for her columns in the Globe & Mail. Her first book, ***An Accidental Canadian*** isn't just a compendium of newspaper columns but also a very personal narrative in which Margaret Wente tells her own story.

Hal Niedzviecki
Tuesday October 26 at 7 pm
Hal Niedzviecki, the guru of Canadian indie culture, returns to Victoria to talk about his new book ***Hello, I'm Special*** (Penguin Canada), an exploration of how individuality became the new conformity. If rebellion is sanctioned by society, and encouraged by parents, what is left to rebel against?

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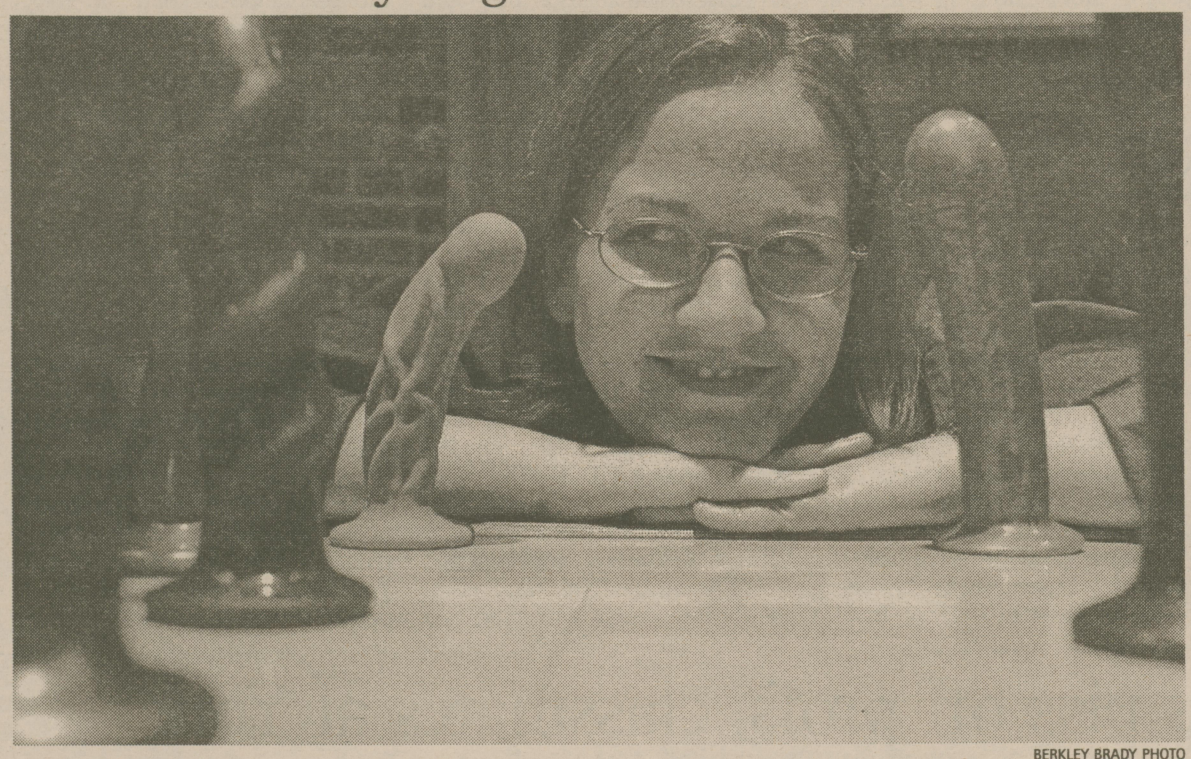
'This has been up my butt'

Future sex therapist talked about everything anal at the Women's Centre sex toy info session

by Megan Stewart



BERKLEY BRADY PHOTO

A table full of synthetic dongs should be embraced not shunned or feared, according Coulter.

A pleasure treasure trove (albeit expressly taboo for some) of plugs, beads and a plethora of other toys for the proverbial backdoor are designed with a woman's satisfaction in mind.

"Everyone loves the word 'butt-plug,'" explained sex educator Tracey Coulter.

"It's a plug for your butt. It's pretty straightforward."

With the exception of a dual-headed vibrator and an ambitiously girthful purple dildo, the 25 toys—including four silver bullets, three butt plugs, a harness, duck-billed nipple clamps and a dozen silicone and latex shlongs—spread across a conference table belong to Coulter.

Working towards a psychology degree at UVic, Coulter has a career as a sex therapist in mind.

She has put on at least 10 sex toy informational sessions, and these lessons in nymphomania come from the presentation she gave one week ago. Sponsored by the Women's Centre, Coulter talked sex, sex toys and sex-with-self to a group of 32 titillated and curious women.

And she broached the issue of female anal action.

"When a woman, or someone with a vagina, uses a butt plug, it creates a feeling of fullness and a sensation of being really, really penetrated," said Coulter, a voluptuous blond with glasses and a sharp wit.

In consideration of everyone's happiness and satisfaction, even when analing yourself, strict and simple rules apply.

"Absolutely lube," Coulter said. Patience is a necessity, too. And communication tops the threesome.

"This is not a rush job. It takes a lot of time for the body to relax and for the mind to not question if 'good girls do this.' And everyone involved needs to be communicating with their partner and themselves."

While a person may not orgasm from anal penetration alone, the whole point is to stimulate the nerves surrounding the pelvis. Toys designed for bum play respect physiology and not only bend with inside curves, but also compress as muscles clench and contract.

"Don't forget about using your fingers," added Coulter. She believes that fingers increase in size from pinkie to index for the very reason of building up to bigger sizes and stretching out the backdoor target. Coulter abated any fears that the end-line sphincter will remain stretched and loose.

The most promising aspect to anal sex is that a woman will get off in more ways than there are to turn her on.

For women into experimentation, butt plugs are fodder for the fire, and as the enthusiastic spokesperson for masturbation, Coulter champions the use of anal toys during any self-sex love fest. In six years she's gone through three hand-held battery-operated vibrators, at "pennies an orgasm," she added. Coulter strongly recommends women indulge their behind when diddling the dandy.

With an eye back to women's lib, Coulter recognizes that masturbation has the ability to empower women by allowing them to take their sexuality into their own hands.

She rubbed a white Conair "body massager," shaped like a squat hairdryer, against her temple. "Yes, this is a rush," she cooed. "I always think of my '70s sisters when I play with this."

No climax is the same, she said, even if rubbing a temple gets you off. Not only does Coulter say that different stimuli result in different sensations, she disagrees with the concept of a vaginal or clitoral orgasm. It's not as simple as Freud would have us believe. In regard to the psychoanalyst's theory on vaginal orgasm and not being a woman until having experienced one, Coulter said this is total bunk.

"Women have 8,000 nerve endings around their clitoris and even more spread around the pelvis. There is more than one way to come, trust me."

Her advice for that ubiquitous yet often illusive G-spot is practice, not obsession.

"It's like before Columbus discovered America—before Grafenberg named his spot, there were a lot of people already there, just not any men."

The phallic lode spread across in front of Coulter included stimulants for various orifices. Women in search of the G-spot, known to tantric types as the "Sacred Gate," are encouraged to invest in a dildo with a curved boomerang-shape near the head. Twitching bunny-ears animate both sides of the clit and, as mentioned, anal plugs shaped like rounded spark plugs or a quadruple ice-cream cone in miniature fill the space for a sense of complete penetration.

Whatever shape, design or purpose of the chosen wang-wannabe, Coulter endorses staunch cleanliness.

Silicone toys, though usually more expensive, are preferred since they can be sterilized in boiling water and will last years of horny coitus. Hard plastics, latex and rubber jellies, while often cheaper, are harder to clean and tend to absorb bacteria, mucus and anything else coming in direct contact. However, cheaper toys are not a write-off.

"These are fine to use and I'd just put a condom on like it was a dick," she explained.

Questions, concerns and anything sexy can be sent to askmestuff69@yahoo.com. Anonymity is guaranteed, and queries may be published in the sex column Coulter writes for the feminist monthly *Third Space*.

In the meantime, the keen sexpert says, "It's your body—play."

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Former minister bashes throne speech

by Tim Boultbee

In last week's speech from the throne, Paul Martin's government promised to "respect its commitment to the Kyoto Accord on climate change."

But the promise does not sit well with Victoria MP and former Environment Minister David Anderson. Speaking from his office in Ottawa, Anderson pointed out that the word "respect" has several meanings ranging from paying respects at a grave to honour and achievement.

"I'm puzzled," said Anderson. Does the Martin government plan to honour an achievement like Kyoto or bury it, he asked, adding that if Kyoto is "less than honoured, [he] will be disappointed."

Anderson also voiced his concerns about Kyoto on Parliament Hill the day after the throne speech. The former minister, who had urged Martin to take a decisive stand on Kyoto, said that during this year's federal election campaign, almost nothing was said about Kyoto "until the election appeared to be heading for a government loss."

"Then we heard strong support, which is what the vast majority of Canadians . . . wanted to hear," he said.

Now, he said, the government is "sending mixed messages."

According to the communications director for the Minister of Environment, however, "the government reiterated its full commitment to Kyoto."

"There is no ambiguity," said Andre Lamarre. "There is already a plan in effect, and Mr. Anderson is aware of this plan because he is the one who worked on this."

Lamarre cited a recent speech given by Environment Minister Stephane Dion in Calgary. In his speech, Dion said "governments, industry and citizens have to embrace collaboration in order to ensure that sustainability is integrated as a central component in all policies."

In an era Dion describes as a new Industrial Revolution, "the environment is a key driver of creativity, of innovation and of competitiveness around the world."

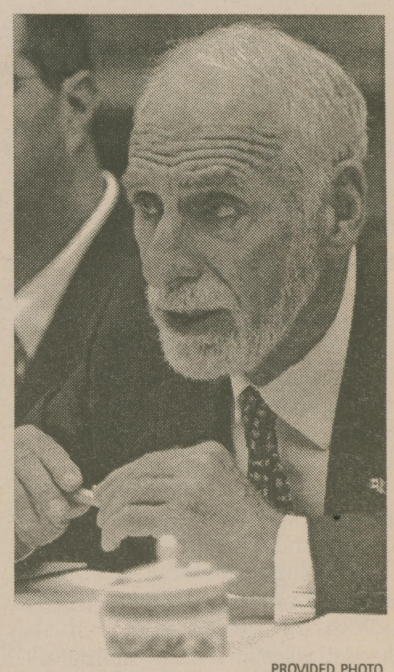
Dion also spoke about some of Canada's pollution problems. Canada spends less on pollution than other G7 countries as a percentage of our gross domestic product (GDP), he said, adding that on a per capita basis, Canada's emissions of carbon dioxide "and key air pollutants ... are among the highest among OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries."

It is these kinds of emissions that worry Anderson. In his response to the throne speech, Anderson told his colleagues that climate change represents "the greatest threat to our children, grandchildren and future generations beyond."

Anderson also said that a majority of Canadians support Kyoto, an assertion that is reflected in a recent national survey. The survey's results, published in *the Time Colonist* on Sept. 13, showed that 82 per cent of Canadians polled support Kyoto's targets of reducing greenhouse gases by 2010. The article also said that support for Kyoto is growing.

Russia approved the protocol at the end of last month, a move many Kyoto supporters hope will pressure the United States and Australia to follow suit.

David Anderson can only hope. In his speech to Parliament, Anderson urged his colleagues to read September's issue of National Geographic and focus "on the global public interest."



PROVIDED PHOTO

David Anderson loves trees.

The speech from the throne, he said, falls short of committing the government to take action on dealing with climate change.

Rude students piss off profs, classmates at York

Higher tuition will end problem, says prof

by Ruby Huang

TORONTO (CUP)—In this era of packed classrooms and overflowing lecture halls, both professors and students at York University agree: when it comes to rude student behaviour in class, sometimes true stories are stranger than fiction.

"The worst behaviour I remember was a male student, during a young woman's seminar presentation, yelling and interrupting her because he hated her feminist analysis," said Scott Forsyth, a political science and film and video professor. "I had to stop the class and yell at him to stop."

Having taught at the university for 20 years, Forsyth finds rudeness in class has stayed consistent over that time.

"When in large classes, there are a lot of students who just look bored, tired and disinterested," he said, noting this annoys him but happens regularly.

Sociology professor Katarzyna Rukszto, in her fifth year teaching at York, agrees with Forsyth.

"It bothers me to see students who do not act like students."

"Whether leaving a class early or chatting and being disruptive, [this behaviour] prevents other people [from being] productive."

After three years at the university, Thomas R. Klassen, a political science professor, suggests a solution.

"I don't think there will be dramatic changes unless tuition goes up even more," said Klassen.

That's because a tuition hike would put more pressure on students and create more competition, he added.

Klassen sees bad behaviour as more of a conflict between rude students and their attentive classmates, rather than a personal pet peeve.

English professor R. Darren Gobert said he gets paranoid when he sees early departures without explanations.

"I find myself thinking, 'Oh no, I've made someone hate Pirandello. I'll have to carry that burden for the rest of my life,'" he said.

Gobert also had a "dyed-in-the-wool note-passer" last year.

Students have also noticed they have disruptive classmates.

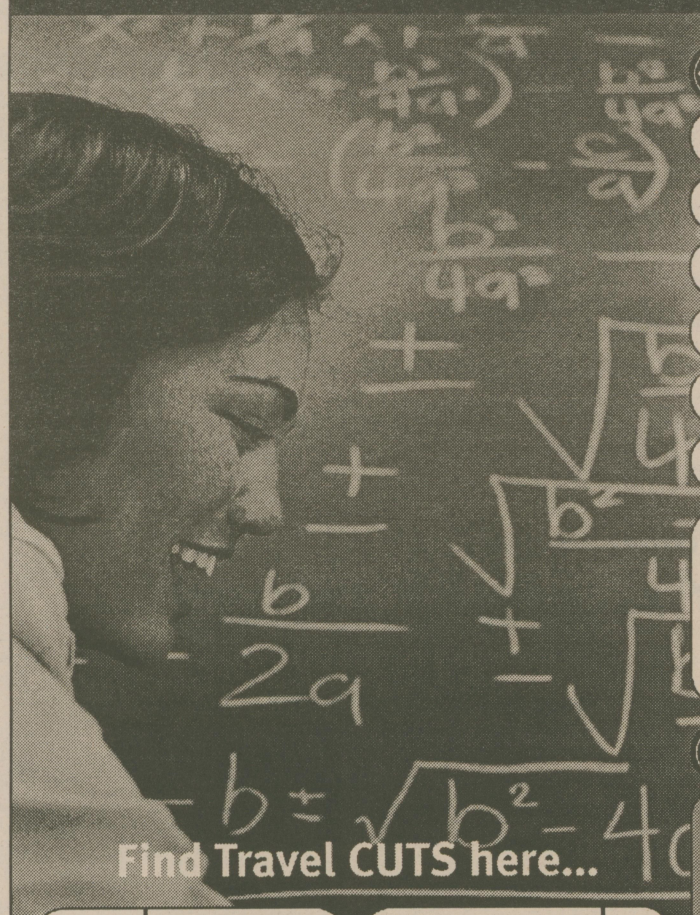
"I hate it when gangs of friends ask me to move so they can sit together and take the entire front row of a lecture hall," said Chie Oguma, a film and communication exchange student. "It is the stupidest thing ever."

English and communication student Sean Woolven is most annoyed by students "laughing at things that aren't funny."

"I hate it when people laugh at a professor's misfortunes," said Woolven, giving the example of when something in a class goes wrong, such as a VCR or computer problem.

"People will laugh at the professor, who is trying desperately to fix it."

DOESN'T TAKE A GENIUS TO GET A GREAT DEAL...



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Law prof condemns U.S. missile defence plan

by Jon Chapnick

An international lawyer and law professor described the U.S. administration as "completely terrifying" and "far more dangerous" than any other in the history of the country as he spoke about international law and missile defence at UVic last week.

During lectures on Oct. 4, Michael Byers, the Canadian research chair in global politics and international law and the academic director of the Liu Institute for Global Issues at the University of British Columbia, spoke about ways in which the Bush administration has "loosened" international laws of war and rejuvenated and implemented Ronald Reagan's "Star Wars" initiative to weaponize space.

"It's all pretty frightening," said Byers, describing the United States as "an all powerful military power," stretching and breaking international law and seeking to "dominate and control space" through ballistic missile defence. "I hesitate to say all this because it sounds crazy," he remarked.

In the afternoon, before a crowded room of law students and faculty, Byers cited several instances where the U.S. government has tried to change international law, including the "Bush doctrine" on pre-emptive war and the American military's treatment of detainees in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and Abu Gharib prison in Iraq.

"I could convict [U.S. Secretary of Defence] Donald Rumsfeld of war crimes," insisted Byers, noting that he would have a "pretty good chance" of convicting President Bush as well.

Second-year law student Devyn Cousineau echoed this sentiment. "The actions of the U.S. in the international realm have been appalling," she said. "It's scary to think how much we don't know."

Byers continued his indictment of the Bush administration before an evening audience of faculty, students and community group members.

Missile defence "is a recipe for [another] arms race," he warned, but he suggested that no one, including the Canadian government, is willing to stop it.

Byers insisted that the Liberal government is "very desiring" of Canadian participation in missile defence, regarding it as being good for the economy and a necessary element of a North American "perimeter security" plan which will integrate Canadian and American external security infrastructure, likely by 2006.

"You can change this," Byers told his audience. He stressed that through grassroots activism and political participation, Canadians could influence the government not to sign on to Bush's missile defence plan.

"At the moment," he said, "the imperative is to push the Canadian decision past Nov. 2," when the U.S. presidential election will take place. "There's reason for hope that [Democratic presidential nominee John] Kerry might be different."

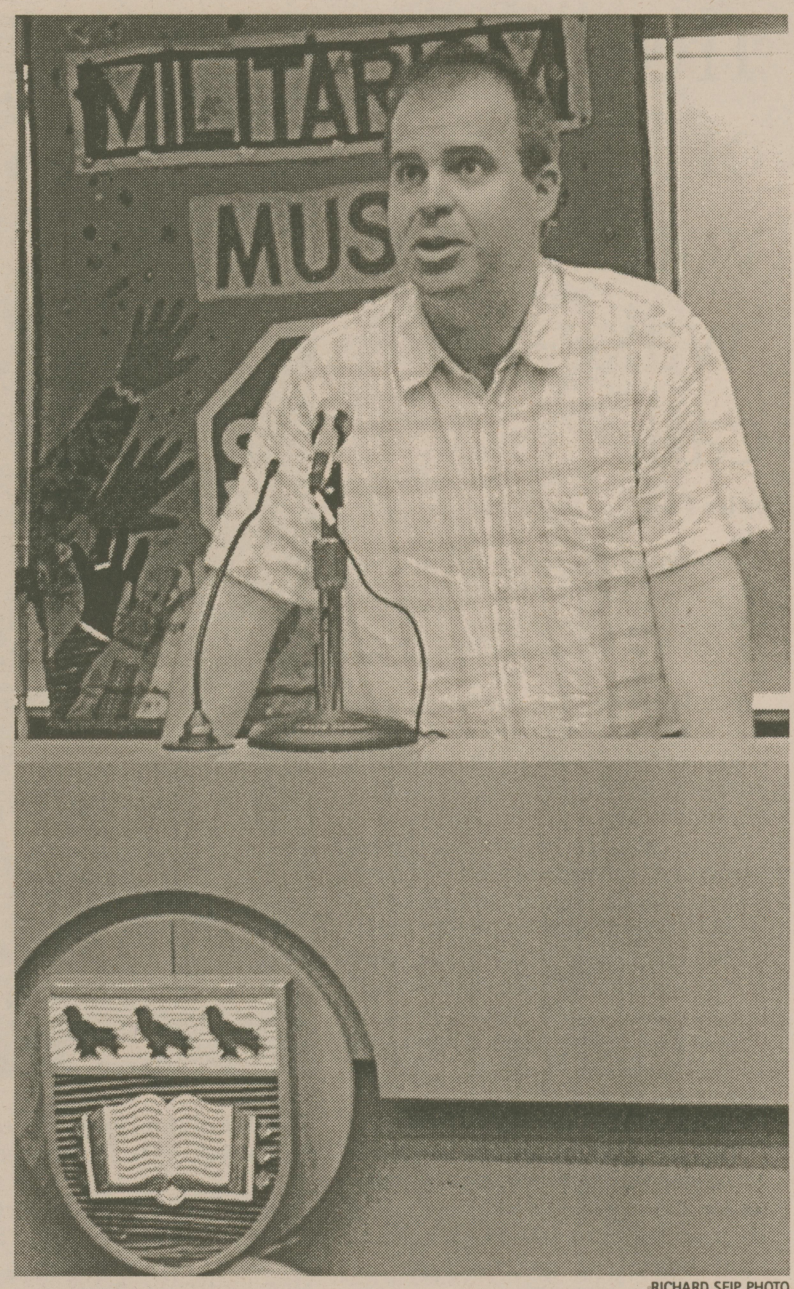
Byers also cautioned both audiences against becoming anti-American, noting that there is substantial internal opposition to the Bush administration's policies. One "kernel of hope," he suggested, is that many U.S. citizens, politicians and senior military officials are "appalled" by their government's actions and agenda.

Overall, Byers' admittedly dire message was well accepted by his audiences.

"His broad appeal really stands out to me," commented environmental studies student Chris Hanlon. The host of the evening event was also impressed by the speaker.

"He can answer our questions," said Stacy Chappel of the Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIPIRG). "It's helpful for people to get a full view of the issues."

VIPIRG's Students Against Missile Defence committee is part of a national campaign to oppose Canadian involvement in missile defence. The organization's website describes the movement against missile defence as "a winnable campaign and directly relevant to Canadian foreign and military policy."



RICHARD SEIP PHOTO

"I am convinced I could convict Donald Rumsfeld for war crimes," said Michael Byers, the Canadian research chair in global politics and international law, two weeks ago.

Graduate Students' Society
Semi-Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, October 26 @ 4PM
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The meeting will adopt 2003-04 audited financial statements, receive reports from Executive Council members, and elect a Director of Student Affairs.

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Tree of Life voters give 'wake-up' call

by Jen King

Hundreds of environmental activists crouched among stumps and slash of an enormous Weyerhauser cut-block on a wet corner of Vancouver Island last Saturday.

As a helicopter flew overhead, neon-clad volunteers in the Tree of Life Celebration spelled "wake up" in an attempt to raise awareness about the devastation of industrial logging.

Co-ordinated by the Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC) and the Rainforest Action Network, the event was heralded as the largest woods-based event calling for forest protection in over a decade by leaders who brought in 20 buses over rough logging roads.

Participants later visited "Alvarez," the ninth-largest tree in Canada—still unprotected—along with hundreds of other thousand-year-old trees in the area.

The Tree of Life Celebration was aimed at the provincial government and called for tougher regulations and protection of B.C.'s forests. It also asked for a repeal on what many call an attack on the province's park system.

On the first weekend of the month, environmentalists gathered in front of the Legislature for the "Save Our Parks" rally, another attempt to garner public awareness toward the potential desecration of island ecosystems and forests.

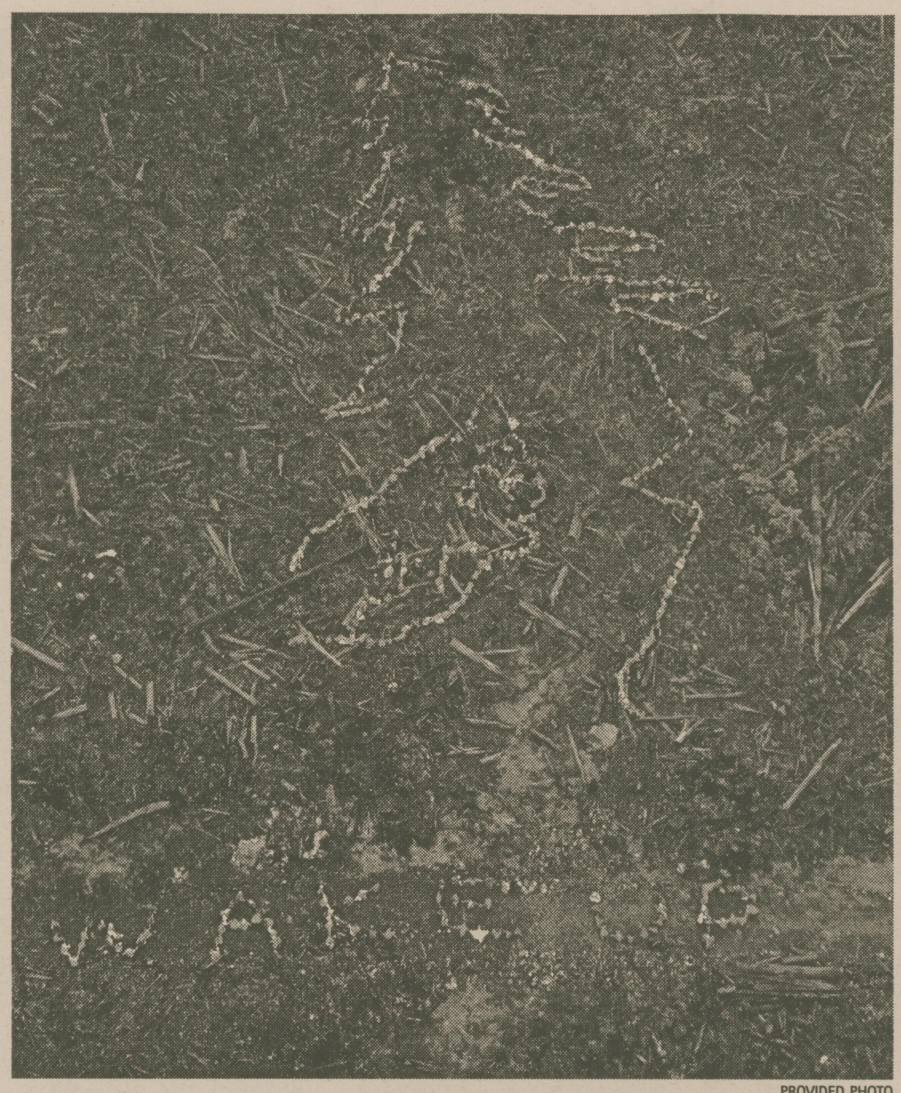
The group protested logging and mining in parks, as well as legislation regarding public control and commercial use of parks. Complaints included the recently instituted user fees and the B.C. Liberals' management of park boundaries. Speakers from WCWC, the Conservation Voters of B.C., the Sierra Club and Pacific Rainforest Adventure Tours, as well as NDP and Green Party supporters, fervently urged voters to fight the so-called "true parasites [responsible for] infecting B.C. forests."

In a telephone interview regarding the Mountain Pine Beetle, a major cause of concern for environmentalists, Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection, Bill Barisoff asserted that "selective tree removal" effectively managed the spread of the species, improved wildlife habitats and prevented forest fires.

The WCWC described the Liberals' strategy toward logging as a "wedge in the door," or one step closer towards privatization of B.C. parks. According to executive director Ken Wu, the provincial government is "the most anti-science administration" seen in quite some time.

However, Minister Barisoff declares that "[his Ministry] wants to do what is right—what is right for the economy, what is right for wildlife and what is right for the people of B.C."

He cited problems with the Land Resource Management Planning process, which is being used to determine protected areas, and the need for consensus among a wide array of interest groups.



PROVIDED PHOTO

British Columbians gathered on Oct.9 to call for the government to "wake up" in regards to forest practices.

Science is sexy

Panellists say press coverage of science lacks substance

by Erika Meere

MONTRÉAL (CUP)—Science students take note: test tubes and petri dishes have "inherent sexiness," and people outside the lab should know it. Or at least that's what Adam Bly, editor-in-chief of *Seed*, a magazine promoting the importance of science to popular culture, says.

Bly partook in a panel discussion titled "Genes in Media and Arts" Oct. 2, which addressed the role of the press in shaping public knowledge about science. The panel was part of the McGill 2004 Student Bioethics Conference, a two-day event aiming to raise awareness about bioethical issues among students.

Kathleen Glass, principal investigator for the clinical trials research group at McGill University, opened the discussion. She argued the press has a responsibility to accurately report on scientific news and ensure the public makes informed decisions about their own health and is aware of contentious public policy issues, such as cloning and stem cell research.

Glass said while some media actively serve to properly inform citizens, others focus too much on sensationalizing scientific developments.

"I think we have to distinguish these," she said. "Are they for education or are they for entertainment?"

Bly said 72 per cent of Americans say they are interested in science, but only 15 per cent say they understand it.

This, he said, inhibits the formulation of sound public policies.

"What happens when public interest outpaces public knowledge? If not poor decision making, then uninformed decision making," he said, adding science journalists are not always fair in covering their fields.

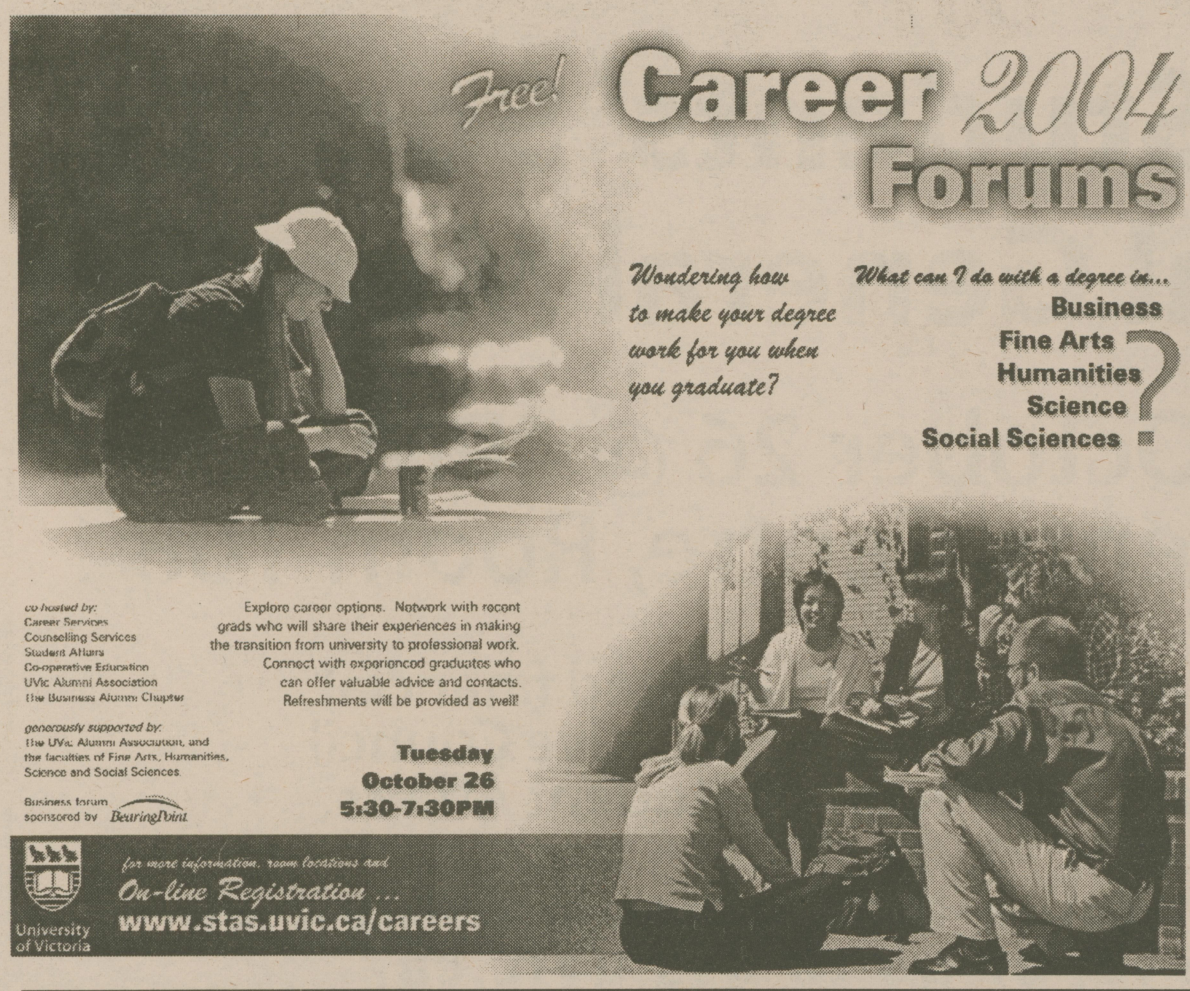
"The media has problems covering science right now," Bly said. "Science journalists don't always bring as much objectivity and balance as their colleagues [in the mainstream]."

But Leigh Turner, an assistant professor in the McGill biomedical ethics unit, said reporters alone are not at fault, pointing out members of the scientific community may misunderstand the goal of media.

"Researchers tend to think of journalists as educators, as mini-professors," said Turner. "I don't think that captures what reporters do. Journalists also have to navigate opposing views . . . they're under pressure to be interesting. They're crafting a product that has commercial value."

At the end of the discussion, one student asked how the panellists proposed to improve science coverage.

"The responsibility lies with those of us who understand science to communicate it," Bly replied. "Somehow we've got to communicate that passion."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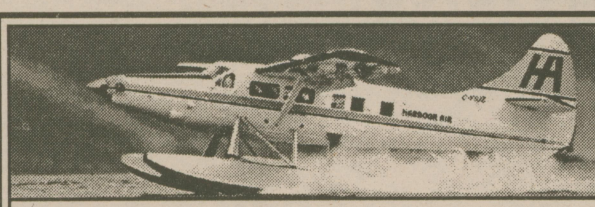

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NEWS BRIEFS

PM visits Kremlin

Prime Minister Paul Martin and Russian President Vladmir Putin released a joint statement early this week vowing to fight terrorism and strive for democracy with the support of the United Nations.

"We stress the central and co-ordinating role of the United Nations in the universal struggle against terrorism," read the release.

Putin has been criticized by international politicians and intellectuals for using terrorism to undermine democratic freedoms. In particular, he has come under fire for continued persecution of Chechen rebels and for his seemingly insensitive response to the Beslan school hostage taking and shootings.

The joint statement condemned the massacre, which killed 330 people.

Martin's visit to the Kremlin on Monday was the start of a week-long tour through northern Europe.

–M.S.

Saanich teens arrested

Five Saanich teens are facing charges relating to identity theft.

Two 19-year-old males, two 16-year-old girls and one 15-year-old girl were picked up after a police search at a local home turned up bags of credit card receipts, bills, a debit card swiper, stolen license plates, a parking pass to a large Victoria hotel and hundreds of keys that investigators believe belonged to storage lockers. The search also unearthed two pages of loose-leaf paper with about 130 Visa numbers, complete with names and expiry dates.

Three cars that had been reported stolen were also found at the home, which one of the 19-year-olds shared with his mother.

The search also uncovered some drugs, and police believe the identity theft racket was used to support crystal meth habits.

–M.S.

Man of Steel dies

Christopher Reeve, famed actor known for his portrayal of Superman, died Sunday, Oct. 10 of heart failure. He was 52.

Reeve was paralyzed from the neck down after he fell in a riding accident nine years ago. Since then he has been a tireless advocate for spinal chord research, challenging scientists to find a cure that would enable him to walk again by his 50th birthday. Often a controversial figure, his name came up during a debate between American presidential candidates John Kerry and George W. Bush.

Along with his tenacity and positive spirit, the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation generated support for para- and quadriplegics and their families around the world.

He leaves his wife Dana Morisini and his 12-year-old son, Will.

–M.S.

UVic celebrates aboriginal alumni

SEAN PATRICK SULLIVAN PHOTO

Kevin Paul poses for pictures before delivering an impassioned speech at UVic's first Celebration of Aboriginal Alumni held on Oct. 7 at Mungo Martin House near the Royal B.C. Museum.

UVic, Alumni Association, aboriginal community create chapter for aboriginal alumni

by Sean Patrick Sullivan

UVic launched a new chapter of its alumni association designated for aboriginal graduates last week at an evening gathering in the downtown Thunderbird Park.

Aboriginal leaders, university brass, graduates and students met to celebrate the chapter and to discuss the importance of the university recognizing aboriginal history.

"This is a historic occasion," said David Turpin, president of the university. "This first gathering is of vital importance. Attracting aboriginal students and encouraging them to complete their education is key to our continued success."

The new chapter follows the university's strategic objective to increase the number of aboriginal students and graduates, he said. Other initiatives include graduate and undergraduate degrees with a First Nations focus, aboriginal student advisors, an aboriginal liaison office and the Native Students' Union.

The university is also working on a First Peoples House, and is looking for feedback on both the design of the building and the suggested site.

Chief Kim Recalma-Cluetesi of the Kwaguilth/Pentlatch, Qualicum band said that now is the right time for the establishment of such a chapter to take place.

"Other universities have rushed to do things politically. UVic has done the right thing in waiting and properly planning," she said, praising the role universities can play in setting goals for young people.

"We have gone from zero to 33 per cent [of aboriginal students] graduating high school . . . the university can be a big motivation," said Recalma-Cluetesi. "If [prospective graduates] have a goal to attain, it makes it easier for our children to graduate from school."

Other speakers included Prof. Jacquie Green, Prof. Robina Thomas, and Kevin Paul, a graduate of UVic's Writing program and winner of the 2004 B.C. Book Prize for poetry.

Last Thursday's gathering was viewed as the best way to launch the chapter, said Karen Whyte, manager of alumni programs for the university.

Now, the focus is on planning the next steps to build the chapter and establish an executive. The event, she said, was partly to gather a list of folks to be involved.

"That's a challenging part. We don't keep lists of who the aboriginal students are, and people had to come forward and self-identify," she said. "Now, we've got lots of interest."

Speakers at the event reminded students that while they can be good academics, they must be true to their culture first.

"We don't have to worry about this cultural pollution," said Paul. "You're not in danger of losing your culture if you just remake it as a tool you can take and use in any way you please."

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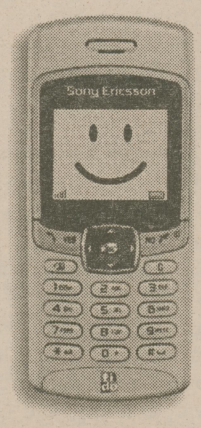

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Editorial

New panhandling bylaw ridiculous

Liberals try to clean up streets

Some are quiet and polite, with cardboard signs and styrofoam cups. Others are more belligerent, demanding change, yelling, and generally being abusive to those who ignore them.

Yes, Victoria's street folk are a force to be reckoned with. And now the BC Liberals think they have a plan to add a little sparkle to the streets and teach those panhandlers a lesson.

The provincial government introduced legislation last week banning aggressive panhandling and squeegee kids from city streets. The good news is that panhandlers won't be allowed to block the sidewalk, follow pedestrians, or use abusive language. They also cannot harass people near vehicles, ATMs, pay phones, public toilets, or transit stops. Good stuff.

The bad news is that it's mostly unenforceable and amounts to little more than pre-election posturing by the Liberals. The bill currently contains no penalties—the attorney general expects offenders to be ticketed—and it's doubtful that the activities of street people in the city will change because of the legislation.

Vancouver-Burrard MLA Lorne Mayencourt was the original proponent of such a bill, which he modeled after Ontario's Safe Streets Act. There, panhandlers and squeegee kids face a fine of $500 for the first offence, $1,000 for the second offense, and jail time for every subsequent offence. His argument is that panhandlers and squeegee kids are becoming more aggressive in interactions with the public.

One of the reasons that people are living on the street asking for money is because they've got none—fines cannot accomplish anything.

The Criminal Code already has provisions for assault and threats, and the police should be dealing with these kinds of offenses on a case-by-case basis, not as a broad crackdown on the homeless. The government should be putting more funding into social programs for people forced to live in the streets, not threatening to fine them

No one wants to be harassed, bothered for change or intimidated, and people should have the right to go about their daily business without facing aggressive panhandlers. But this ineffective bill is just an example of the Liberals pandering to the electorate before the spring election.

Gay marriage finally reaches Supreme Court

It may be months before a ruling is made, but the Supreme Court has finally begun deliberations on whether gay marriage is constitutional. Last week the justices heard presentations over three days from religious, "family rights," gay advocacy and civil rights groups, as well as stodgy Alberta premier Ralph Klein.

There is little question that the Supreme Court will sanction gay marriages. The two new justices sworn in last week, Rosalie Abella and Louise Charron, have a record of being strong proponents of same-sex rights, the case is being argued by government lawyers and a fairly speedy decision is expected.

So, it looks like the bill is going places. There are probably plenty of high-fives among its supporters, and rightly so—after years of the issue being batted around Parliament, it appears a decision is finally being made.

But a leaked cabinet document cited by the *Toronto Star* earlier this month suggests that the Liberals may delay bringing the bill to Parliament until this time next year. Before going to a vote, it would have to go through a parliamentary committee, which could push back a decision until 2006.

Why? Because Paul Martin is worried about the state of his minority government, and wants to avoid any kind of divisive debate in his own cabinet. Though the NDP and most of the Bloc would surely vote in favour, dozens of Liberals broke ranks during the last vote related to the issue. Martin's government almost came toppling down a couple weeks ago—it's not something he can risk again.

British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec permitted gay marriages last year; the Yukon territory followed in July; and Manitoba and Nova Scotia last month. The Saskatchewan court is expected to rule this fall. Please, Mr. Martin and the leaders of his opposition: quit fucking around and push this through Parliament. We're tired of waiting.

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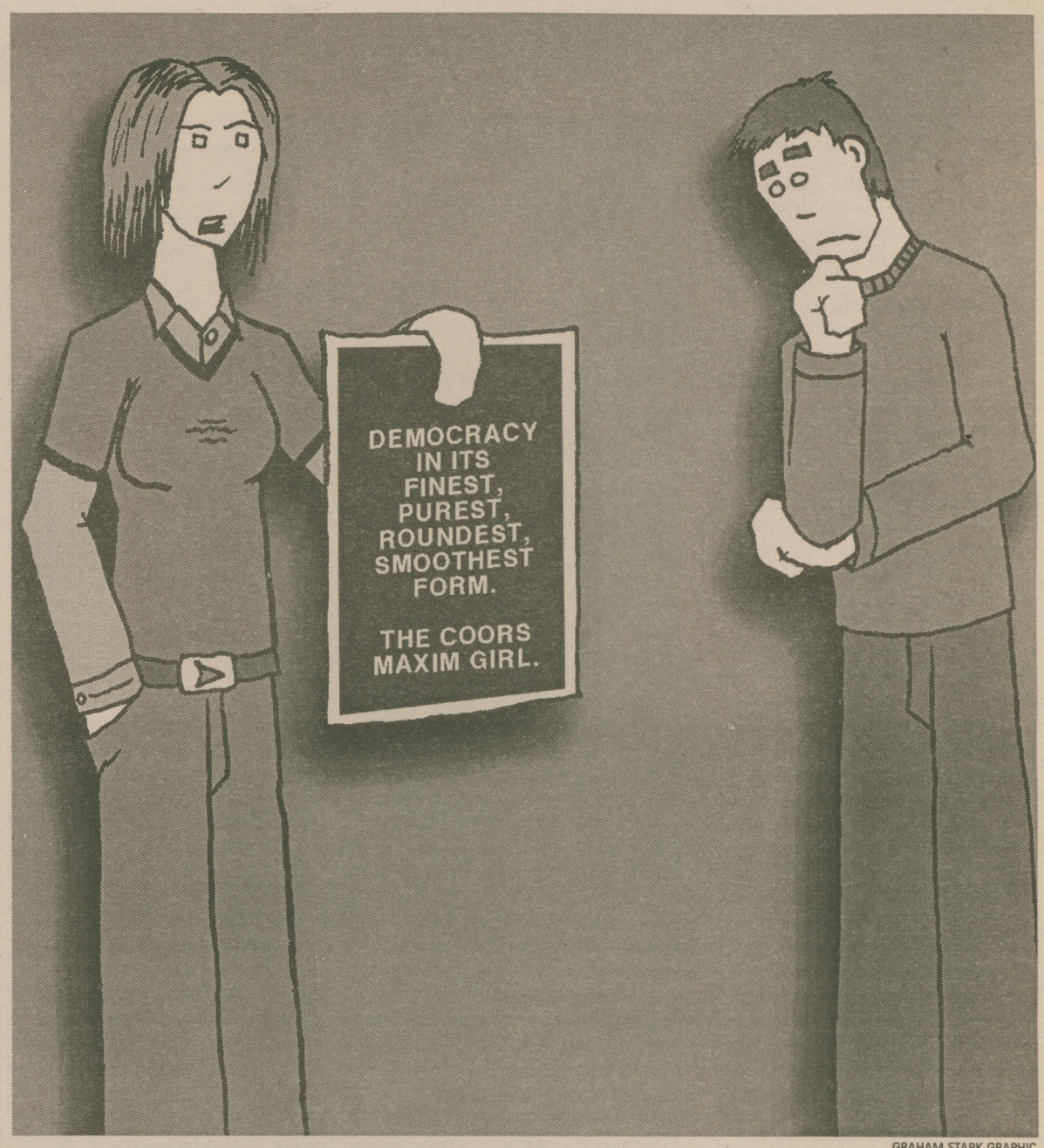

GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

"Hey, is this ad offensive and sexist, or just tasteless and stupid? Cause I'm not sure..."

It's time to boycott America

'Fears, coalescing with post-9/11 grief, have virtually silenced the opposition to the Bush administration'

by Tim Hanson

I'm afraid to write what I'm about to write for fear of ostracism and accusations of sensationalism. Nevertheless, it needs to be addressed—America has gone too far in its defence of national security and now looks more like a fascist Nazi regime than an autonomous democracy.

If an apathetic attitude in world political communities persists towards the de facto non-criticism of American domestic and foreign policy, then I fear that the world may suffer such ills as were perpetrated during the Second World War.

Regardless of their military superpower standing, the United States needs to be boycotted. Whether those boycotts take the form of trade sanctions or forced removal of its military from countries that were (according to international law) illegally invaded, they need to happen now before any further atrocities are committed.

In the last three weeks, UVic has been privileged to host three important speakers who have come forward to talk about America, Iraq and illegality: Brandon Hughey, an American war deserter, Dr. Laura Nader, an anthropologist from UC Berkeley and Dr. Michael Byers, the Canadian research chair for international law. Their discussions of the threat America poses to itself and other nations, coupled with what we as ordinary citizens have seen from our reliable media outlets, paints a picture that is beginning to resemble a grim past.

Since the destruction of the World Trade Center, the United States has been shrouded in a cloak of fear. Feeling exposed and weak, the American people decided that it was in their best interests for their federal government to institute security measures that would better protect their borders, skies and cities. Some of the most notable measures, including the colour-coded threat levels from the Homeland Security Advisory System and the Patriot Act, were introduced to ensure such protection.

Instead of instilling the American public with confidence, these measures have done the opposite and manufactured a greater sense of fear—fear that their country is no longer invulnerable to attacks and fear that their civil liberties can be infringed upon in a Gestapo-esque fashion at the arbitrary discretion of the state. These politically instituted fears, coalescing with post-9/11 grief, have virtually silenced the opposition to the Bush administration, creating a government unanswerable to even the constituency that elected it. The three recent guests to UVic hinted that on the world stage, the situation is much worse.

During her talk, Dr. Laura Nader submitted that adhering to international law and approval had become an afterthought to the U.S. government: important when it benefits them, but insignificant when it does not. Under the guise of bringing about democracy, interim Iraqi leader Paul Bremer and the American military forces systematically over-wrote the Iraqi constitution and eliminated any past Iraqi legal professionals who would have knowledge of that constitution (a legal code that was developed entirely by Iraqis who merged Middle Eastern civil code with Islamic law). It used to be that when a country was illegally invaded for dubious reasons, its lands occupied and its legal code abolished, world leaders banded together to remove the oppressive occupation. Now we just shake our heads, turn a blind eye and say "silly Americans."

Brandon Hughey told his audience that the American invocations of patriotism had the potential to lead into nationalism. It is my fear that the transition has already occurred. Michael Byers boasted that given access to upper level military officials, he could convict Donald Rumsfeld and probably George W. Bush with war crimes under international law. By ordering the detention, interrogation, torture and execution of potential combatants without trial, America is spearheading fascist imperialism in the guise of democratic defence. The conflict in Iraq is not a war and has never been a war in the legal sense of the word. A declaration of war must be made by Congress and such a declaration would grant detainees rights under the Geneva Convention. Naturally, this declaration was never made, as broad leeway was required for combating terrorism.

It is this leeway that threatens to plunder and oppress other nations if left unchecked by UN and NATO allies. The self-justified rhetoric of domestic defence through foreign oppression gains strength every day it is left unchallenged. The world let this happen before with Germany and is now ashamed of the consequences of its late and mitigated action. Until the United States is faced with some sort of sanctions, either financial or military, we can expect escalated incursions and could someday find ourselves subjected to unwelcome American ideologies, whether we like it or not.

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It takes balls to be different

'Metrosexuals, bless 'em, are the newest revolution in breaking down gender roles'

by Briony Smith

To Sacha Narine, writer of last week's *Martlet* opinion article "The demise of male identity," I say: grow some balls.

My umbrage with the pseudo-light-hearted piece is that it masquerades as tongue-in-cheek wittiness but comes off with a stench of homophobia and one man's laughable clawing to keep ahold of dying gender roles.

The author feels insulted that metrosexuals "play at queerness." But metrosexuals are, by definition, straight.

If taking care of your appearance makes you a dead ringer for a fairy, then I'm surprised that I—or any other well-groomed person—don't get mistaken for a gay guy more often.

Narine clings to the "notion of heterosexual man"—that there is one societal idea of what Man is and one idea of what Gay Man is, and never the twain shall meet!

It was a boon to the slack-jawed breeders of the world when they realized they could "identify" gay guys by their ability to colour-co-ordinate and eliminate that unsightly unibrow. Homosexuals could be quickly and painlessly categorized by sight. Yet it frightens most people, including Narine, when society's trusty classification system breaks down.

Why is it so important to clearly and immediately gauge someone's sexuality? Is the author afraid that if he doesn't correctly zero in on a homo's lust for cock in 0.2 seconds, his ass could be penetrated as quick as one can say "Queer Eye for the Straight Virgin Ass"?

Narine accuses metrosexuals of gleefully confusing all heteros with their "indistinct sexuality," but he should really speak for himself and say, "I am uncomfortable with straight guys looking gay."

He does one better by labeling "all" metrosexuals "amoral," defined as not caring about right and wrong. But how does caring about looking washed, smelling nice and having good hair make you a bad person?

How does whitening your teeth and putting some goop in your tresses make you a sex-crazed, dick-in-hand kinda guy?

The ideas in the article about metrosexuals appear strangely like outdated stereotypes of the gay community—that gays don't care it is "wrong" to have sex with men and that they will have sex with anyone. Metrosexuals have become grouped with the fundamentalists' delirious vision of lusty homos who will rot in hell for their amorality and refusal to adhere to societal gender and orientation conditioning.

I think that metrosexuals, bless 'em, are the newest revolution in breaking down gender roles and gender conditioning. They give passersby pause, and will hopefully affect a new era wherein people don't assume that someone is gay just because of the way they look.

Just because a man is clean and pretty does not make him gay—and being gay does not necessarily mean you will be clean and pretty. Three cheers for straight men that are confident enough in who they are to challenge traditional ideas of "manhood." It takes balls to be different.

And it takes a real man to master product.

LETTERS

Seriously, pictures of leaves?

You've got an exclusive from a satellite phone in the Bering Sea—with a local angle on a national story no less—and your cover is a trio of autumnal photos? Seriously *Martlet*, who's running the show there, Martha Stewart's less criminal, more boring cousin?

Richard Warnica

UVSS 'communist fee system'

I felt that the letter in the Oct. 7 issue of *the Martlet* by Michael Gismondi and Jonathan Hughes regarding the undemocratic way in which students are forced to pay unnecessary fees hit the nail on the head. There are some services such as the U-Pass and the Athletics and Recreation fees that I would gladly opt into if I were given the choice, but that is about the extent to which I wish to participate in this communist fee system.

Proponents of the current system argue that everyone benefits by being forced to squeeze out extra funds, but they say that in order for the scheme to be effective everybody must pay. If every person genuinely benefits from the UVSS and other university services, then surely the fees will be paid voluntarily, sans coercion. Such is the power of the free market.

Mike Allison

Take this, UVSS-haters!

To the two gentlemen writing in the first person singular about how he or they feel that the UVSS student levies are somehow "undemocratic" and that he or they do not utilize any UVSS services despite the fact that this letter was likely composed after a few jars of amber at Felicita's and possibly followed by a slice of Bean There pizza or a movie at Cinecenta: I wonder how they would feel about my withholding the portion of my income taxes that are helping to subsidize their education at UVic, since I feel it is of no personal benefit to me? Would they also like the right to opt out of the British Columbia Medical Services Plan as it's been forced on them?

Colin Bailey

Fees supporting partisan politics

Last week's letter to the editor in which two students raised the issue of mandatory student fees reopened a can of worms that I think still has not been addressed. While I agree with fees that pay for the Student Union Building and other services that we all use in one way or another, I have to wonder about the portion of our student fees that go to support partisan politics.

Why do I pay money to an organization, the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), which is blatantly in support of the NDP? For example, its 'Vote Education' campaign during the previous federal election came right out and endorsed the NDP. The Canadian Federation of Students, which all UVic students pay to support, has been pushing for the election of NDP governments from B.C. to Nova Scotia.

The fact that they wish to be involved in politics is great, and it is absolutely their right in a democracy but it is not their right to use my money, or that of other students who may not agree, to do it. Also, why are our fees linked to the Consumer Price Index, which sees them being increased every year? Is the cost of electing NDP governments going up continually as well?

Why do I pay for Joanna Groves, Shamus Reid, Jamie Matten and Michelle Kinney, among others, to fly across the country and strategize on how to get their party of choice elected? I don't think that using the fees paid by all UVic students for partisan purposes is very democratic at all.

Kenan Murseli

CFS is the problem

I searched the CFS website for some clue as to how their money is being spent and all I found were criticisms of provincial and federal budgets. I would ask any student whether or not they know exactly how we choose our CFS representatives. I am in my second year, and no person claiming to run for the CFS has ever approached me for my vote.

This to me is undemocratic and unaccountable. It's our $7.20 per semester, so shouldn't we have some say in how it is spent?

I wonder: is most of the money we send helping the protests those people decide to hold every so often? Wouldn't students be better off if the CFS actually sat down and talked to the government rationally instead of screaming at them every so often?

Maybe the reason tuition keeps going up is the failure of our so-called "student leaders" to actually lead. Or maybe we need to get rid of these people and put in people who are prepared to look beyond partisan and ideological lines for the greater good.

Matthew Lebrun

Go back to first-year PoliSci

Michael Gismondi and Jonathan Hughes claim student fees shouldn't be mandatory because they personally don't benefit from UVSS services ("UVSS fees undemocratic," Oct. 7).

They must be part of that small percentage of the student body that is independently wealthy, own cars, never go hungry, never join clubs and course unions, and don't ever have to deal with discrimination of any kind. For the rest of us, the UVSS provides much-needed services.

By pooling all students' money, both the UVSS and the Graduate Students' Society are able to do a lot with limited resources. We may not all use these services, but when we do, they are available to us—no questions asked.

Gismondi and Hughes should return to first-year PoliSci if they honestly believe the UVSS is undemocratic. In a democracy, individuals are given the opportunity to vote.

If only 15 per cent of the electorate choose to exercise that right, that may indicate a problem with voter apathy, but it does not mean the UVSS is a dictatorship. Maybe if Gismondi and Hughes tried sitting on a committee or running for a position, they would realize how valuable a strong student union, supported by mandatory student fees, really is to all students on campus.

Katie Rollwagen

Director-at-Large weighs in

Last week's letter "UVSS fees undemocratic" is a clear example of how student frustrations continue to build over the use of mandatory student fees.

While I approach the letter with some caution because of the services which are a good use of students' money—the UPass, Sexual Assault Centre, medical plans, Society for Students with a Disability and (gasp) *the Martlet* being just a few—there is clear frustration over the constant use of our mandatory student fees to support political campaigns that thousands of UVic students don't support.

Those political campaign fees we're all forced to pay—most going to the Canadian Federation for Students and some going to the UVSS—are used to run campaigns that constantly prop up the NDP whether we support the party or not.

Here's an idea: why don't we use the mandatory student fees for providing services that all students benefit from and then just have the CFS and UVSS collect fees for their political campaigning from students who actually support those campaigns? Why not make it an "opt-out" like the medical plan? There's nothing wrong with supporting the NDP. I just think it's wrong that they use non-supporters' money to do it.

If they really feel they have that much support on campus, then why are they so worried about the concept of only using supporters' money to run their campaigns instead of forcing non-NDP supporting students to ante up each year for their "report cards" and radio ads trashing every party except, you guessed it, the New Democratic Party.

Tom Grainger
Director-at-Large, UVSS

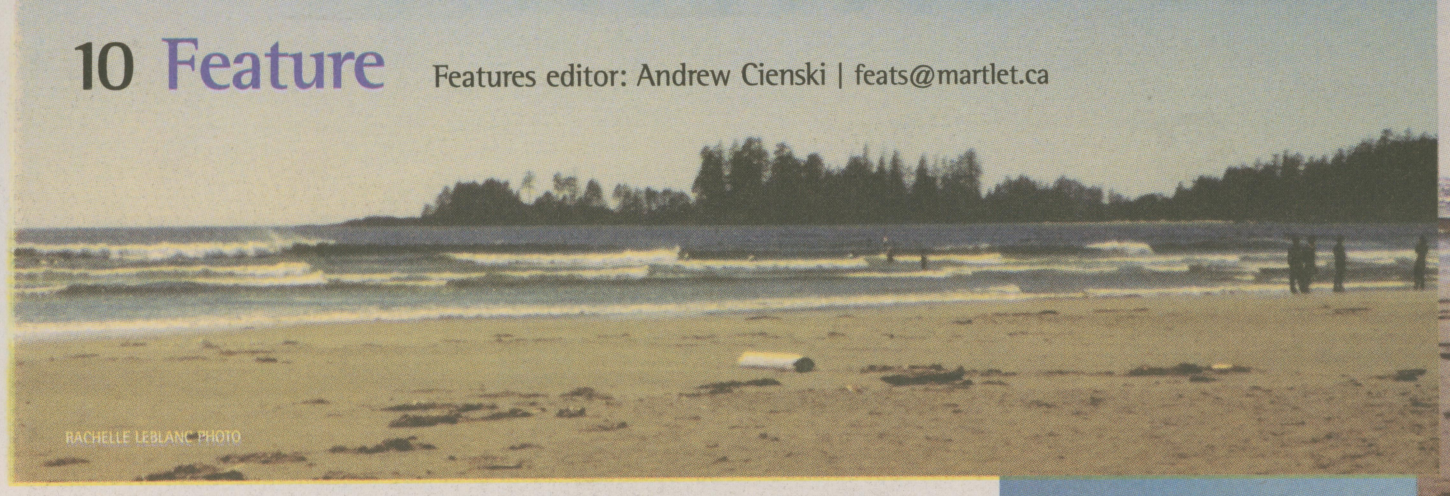
Coors and Maxim? Have some class

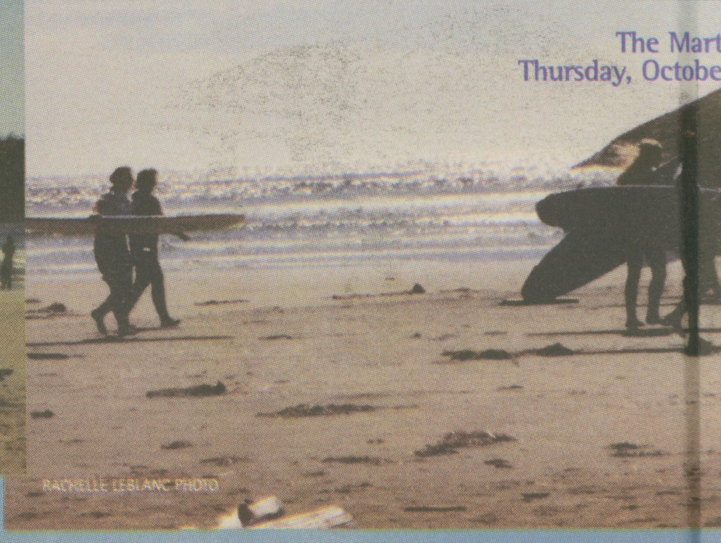
I was most disappointed last week to find *the Martlet*, my agent of positive social change, the student newspaper by which I, my friends and colleagues so generously lend our names, befouled by a Maxim/Coors Light jug-judging contest.

The thinly veiled attempt to rationalize the degradation and objectification of women is an affront to the university, its students and the newspaper. Staff and volunteer writers such as myself expend our precious time and energy to make this newspaper something great. I feel betrayed when I see our efforts stained by an advertisement that tries to pander its sexist and low-brow viewpoints as the way things ought to be.

Such blatant sexism is unacceptable and ought to be chastised. To that effect, I feel no remorse in calling on the staff, students and faculty of UVic to boycott all services and products advertised by Campus Plus who places ads for a myriad of companies, including Maxim and Coors Light.

Tim Hanson


RACHELLE LEBLANC PHOTO


RACHELLE LEBLANC PHOTO

Riding the waves—a new su

MURRAY DOWN PROVIDED PHOTO

'An irresistible feeling, like realizing you're falling in love—just for a moment'

by Rachelle LeBlanc

I have always loved the water. My mother swears I was already confident in it before my little legs stopped wobbling enough to take my first steps. I had a rainbow of swimming badges on my beach towel before I was old enough to drive a car.

Apart from a life-long love affair with water, I can't actually pinpoint the first time I thought to try surfing. I'd be lying if I said *Blue Crush* had nothing to do with me finally doing it. I'd always loved how it looked on TV: athletic and graceful, simple and difficult—all at the same time. "Plus," as I pointed out to my friend, who didn't think surfing was my most brilliant idea, "if I fall off, it's only water. It's got to hurt less than pavement." (Okay, so I didn't have the most confidence-inspiring record in active sports. At least I try and try again.).

"Yeah," my friend said, "but you can drown in water. You can't drown on pavement." A fair statement, I thought. Maybe it's because I am a confident swimmer, but I hadn't considered that possibility. The topic then moved on to an analysis of the types of wounds I might incur, from shark bites to infected coral cuts.

Unfortunately, this conversation took place in the Tofino hostel after I had paid the $195-plus-tax non-refundable fee for two days' lessons from Surf Sister, an all-girl surf school.

Surf Sister's founder, Jenny Stewart, is a member of the Canadian National Surfing team who always knew she wanted to make surfing her full-time job. She started her school six years ago with a cell phone, working out of the back of her truck. Surf Sister has been at its current location, next to Live to Surf, for three years now and the school is sponsored through companies like Roxy and Billabong. All of Surf Sister's instructors are British Columbia Association of Surf Instructors (BCASI) certified. Their students are women and girls (although there are classes that men can take too) as young as 12, but who usually range from 20 to 40 years old—people just like me who have always wanted to try it out.

Krissy Montgomery is an instructor at Surf Sister and is aware of how intimidating learning to surf can be. "Surfing's always been a male-dominated sport," she told me. "We're not trying to discourage men from surfing but to encourage women to try it out." Krissy started surfing eight years ago but "quit a thousand times because it was so hard." She claims she learned the hard way—by not listening to anyone. I understood by that that we all shouldn't do it her way. This could be tricky. I have the attention span of a gnat and I tend always to do things my way (i.e. the hard way). Great attributes for anyone taking up a potentially suicidal sport.

I've always felt my love of fashion could lead to a well-rounded, fulfilling lifestyle, and here's a perfect example: it was a belt that finally made me decide to take lessons. The salesgirl at the Tofino bikini shop was wearing a great belt. I asked if I could buy one, and she told me she got it at a weekend Roxy clinic that culminated with a goody bag. That was Surf Sister. It sounded like a blast—anything with a goody bag had to be fun. The real clincher, though, was the belt. I was definitely planning on learning to surf someday, but that belt convinced me to just do it. I guess you could say I owe my first time on a board to an accessory. It's almost romantic how my love of clothing led me to surf. Sigh.

Since it was my trip, Tofino was my drive. My boyfriend Adam got to be my co-pilot, and since he had no desire to surf himself, he also got to be my cheerleader. His job was to drink beer on the beach and take pictures of me, which suited him just fine.

It's a beautiful sunny Saturday morning in mid-September as we head out.

"I hope it doesn't rain," I say to Adam, who just shrugs.

"Would it really make a difference surfing?" he asks. A valid, albeit smart-ass, point. I grin, glad he's coming with me.

Sitting in the driveway, my car looks like it can make it up to Tofino. An ancient white-on-white V-dub Cabriolet, it has all the trappings of a cool surf-mobile, sporting an assortment of surf-company decals and Hawaiian-print seat covers. Yep, I was all ready to go.

It's a fun drive, especially a part of the highway that dips suddenly, and if you hit it at the right speed, it makes your stomach go whoop. An irresistible feeling, like realizing you're falling in love—just for a moment.

I see the group from Surf Sister and head over. I'm given a wet suit. There is something adverse about putting on wet clothes, especially cold, rubbery, tight, wet things that smell like old fish in a tire factory. To top it all off, we got baby-blue Roxy rash guards that we're told to wear over our wetsuits. This would serve to identify us to our instructors—and everyone on the beach—as a bunch of confused twits who don't know we're supposed to wear them under our wetsuits.

We each grab a huge blue soft-top long board with Hawaiian print on the top and head out to the beach for the pre-surf lesson. Here we cover the basics, like surf safety and etiquette, we practice pop-ups, and we do some stretches

MURRAY DOWN PROVIDED PHOTO

and warm-ups—yoga sun salutations, much to the amusement of pretty much everyone else on the beach. Easy peasy.

Since we were all girls, there was a round-table discussion about why we all came out. Everyone recited carefully worded reasons about needing to bond spiritually with the ocean, blah, blah, while we all really meant to say, "I saw *Blue Crush* and it was cool, so I want to be a surfer now so I can be cool too." But none of us had the nerve to say as much. I admit that I kept my motivational belt story to myself.

Finally, I'm out in the water and I realize I have no idea what I'm doing. Getting out at all is a lesson in futility. For each step forward I take, a new wave yanks me back five. I have to practically jump into the wave and push the nose of my board down, which lines my face up nicely to be smacked by the salty water. Spluttering, I can see Adam on the beach in his folding chair, reading and drinking beer, and for a second I think his job looks far more rewarding. Maybe he had the right idea after all.

RACHELLE LEBLANC PHOTO

urfer finds fashion and fun

MURRAY DOWN PROVIDED PHOTO

At last the moment comes. It's my turn, and here comes my wave.

"Get ready Rachelle—this one's yours," shouts my instructor. Adrenaline pounds through my head as I try to remember the prescribed order of events: paddle, check for wave, paddle like stink, get wave, paddle 1-2-3 and pop up.

Everyone's shouting, "Paddle, paddle, paddle—you got it!" and I wonder distractedly how exactly I'm supposed to know when I've "got it"— until I do and then I know.

I flail, trying to fit everything in, and immediately flip the board over and splash. I do this a bunch more times. Lather, rinse, repeat. Finally, and surprisingly sooner than I expected, I was up on my board, hooting victory as I rode a wave for a few momentous instants indelibly imprinted on my body, brain and spirit.

For the record, "surfah" girls are not a new thing; in fact, women have been surfing in the Polynesian islands for hundreds of years. The first Australian to ever try surfing was a woman. But you wouldn't necessarily know this just from looking at surf magazines, where it seems that men do all the surfing and the women just wear the clothes, waiting on the beaches while their surfer boyfriends hang ten.

Things have been changing, and professional female surfers like Rochelle Ballard and Keala Kennelly have been getting more and more acclaim. It must be something in the water since they're both from Hawaii. If I were from an ocean paradise where the water didn't feel like liquid nitrogen, I bet I'd have had a better head start on my current novice status.

Now there are magazines just for women who surf, written by and about women who surf. Magazines like *Surfer Girl* and *Wahine* address the issues faced by people with two X chromosomes and sand in their wax. Even some of the main guys' magazines like *Surfing* have added a women's section due to growing reader interest.

Megan Abubo, Oahu surfer extraordinaire, points out that there are basic physiological reasons for the different styles of men's and women's surfing: men are bigger, stronger and have been at it longer (at least competitively). "No one ever says `I don't think Venus Williams surfs as good as Andy Roddick,'" Abudo said in a recent interview with *Transworld Surf* magazine. "Venus will never surf as fast as Andy Roddick, and that's just the way it is. I'm not a male surfer and I never will be."

She raises a good point. I'm not a man either and have no plans to change that, ever. The clothes on my side of the gender fence are way too cute to ever let me switch over.

It's obvious that attitudes towards female surfers are changing. Megan Stewart, a student at UVic and news editor for *the Martlet*, is a newcomer to surfing. She feels no intimidation or macho attitude from the guys who seem to live out past the break. Her second time surfing, she was at Tofino's Chesterman Beach in late September. Her friends had their nine-year-old daughter, Hannah, on a board, and Megan was surfing too. " [Hannah] wasn't intimidated, and neither was I," said Megan. If anything, she said she was more concerned about not knowing surf etiquette and potentially hurting someone. It's all fun and games until someone loses a face to a surfboard fin.

Seriously though, I can relate to having to save face around children. My six-year-old niece once dragged me into the Bug Zoo by the Victoria Inner Harbour to hold a tarantula for her. I did it, despite my better judgment and utter terror, because peer pressure works, especially when it's coming from those little peers who only come up to your elbow. But I digress.

My first day of surfing at Long Beach was finally coming to a close. I had ridden out countless waves and fallen as many times before I put my board on my head and marched back to the parking lot.

"Hey sexy surfer girl," calls Adam. I put my board back on the truck and went over to look at the pictures he had taken on his digital camera.

"You look pretty hot in this one." I leaned in to examine a great shot of me on a yellow-tipped board—except my board had a red tip. I wondered how much beer he'd had, but whatever. I guess we all look the same falling off a surfboard. Besides, I was so exhilarated that nothing else mattered. Falling off is pretty much all I was doing anyway. In fact, I would say I almost perfected the art of bailing.

The next morning I woke up and I hurt. Maybe it was the other way around. I'm not sure. Didn't matter though. It was time to get back to the beach. I'm so dedicated, it hurts. Really.

More yoga and more lessons—this time about waves, wind and different breaks. We're lucky to be in Tofino. Apart from the rip tide, there's nothing to worry about—no rocks, coral or sharks. My friends were worried for nothing. Good news for sharkophobic me. Although later that afternoon, when I graduate to deeper water and bigger waves, I find myself sitting on my board with my legs pulled up, wondering if sea lions ever attack people or if killer whales come in this close to shore. I'm afraid to dangle my legs over my board, irrationally positive that something big is under my board and wants to eat me.

Then I see the wave.

It's small, but the afternoon is wrapping up and we're on last call.

"Catch a wave and ride it in—it's your last one today," shout the instructors. I start to paddle hard. I check and see that my wave has grown exponentially bigger than I thought. Like a schoolyard bully, with a hard shove it hits me, and I paddle. One-two-three and pop up. It hasn't even broken yet, no whitewash—just a wave with me in its way. I ride it for a bit until I try to cut across, only to learn that I'm still just a newbie. I get worked. For the first time, I don't know where up is, where to find air. Like a washing machine, I'm in the spin cycle and enjoying it. At last my board breaks the surface, and my leashed leg pulls me back up to my world.

Whoop. I'm in love.

Just bein' gangstas

Slum Village
Detroit Deli (A Taste of Detroit)
Barak Records

by Matthew Wilson

These days many rap groups that have devoted underground followings end up surprising their fans by releasing a new album with a sound unlike previous releases. Though experimentation and change can be good, a new sound can be a little disappointing when it seems to be a step back in the creative evolution of a group with so much talent. This is the case with Slum Village's fourth release, *Detroit Deli (A Taste of Detroit).*

Though the group has always been touted as intelligent, positivist rap (like A Tribe Called Quest, Mos Def, and De la Soul), Slum Village has more or less shed that image in favour of a more generic and flashy style that leaves faithful fans wondering about the change of pace. Like many albums of modern groups seeking commercial success, this album plays like just another rap album about cars, clothes, women, playas and being a gangsta. Slum Village uses some "hot" artists on a few of their tracks to catch the eye of mainstream-rap fans. "Dirty" features Wu-Tang Clan legend Ol' Dirty Bastard under his new alias Dirt McGirt, and "Selfish" features Kayne West, who also produced the track.

The strongest section of the album comes right in the middle, where Slum revisits the positivist roots that made them so popular in the past on "Closer" and "Keep Holding On." The tracks contain jazzy, soulful beats mixed with meaningful lyrics that touch on feelings of life, love and emotion. "Old Girl/Shining Star," a piano-driven, heartfelt tribute to single mothers, shows that Slum Village still has a lot of creativity in it.

Detroit Deli has its strong points, but with such a short track list it won't be regarded as Slum's strongest release to date.

Ride with Che

The Motorcycle Diaries an enjoyable journey

by Amber Minnings

How do you turn a myth into a man? I'm wondering because the film *The Motorcycle Diaries* does exactly that.

True, there are many shots of Ernesto "Che" Guevara looking noble as he stares off into the distance, and he is shown to be compassionate, determined, and endearingly honest. But the image of the legendary Che that we see on posters and T-shirts is largely dispelled.

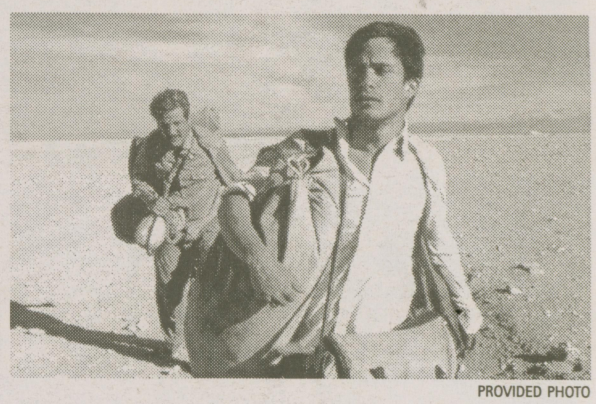
Based on adventures that the Latin American revolutionary and his friend Alberto Granado described in their journals as they travelled in South America, the film tries to stay true to its roots. The journey is reconstructed as realistically as possible, as seen in the photographs of the actual journey that are shown during the credits.

In 1952, with only a semester left of medical school, 23-year-old Guevara leaves Argentina with Granado to see the world they have only read about in books. The two set out on an aging motorcycle they jokingly call "the mighty one." Far from mighty, the bike is a piece of scrap metal on wheels, and the friends seem to spend more time flying off it or pushing it down the road than they do actually riding it.

At the start of the journey, they are typical college students seeking parties, women and adventure, but as the journey continues it becomes clear that Guevara is destined for a more meaningful life.

Against the backdrop of gorgeous South America, the friends encounter the terrible poverty of its natives, the corruption of wealthy landowners, and lands filled with people searching for dignity and hope. These experiences leave strong impressions on the young Guevara. They also show his extraordinary gift of compassion, and the strength and courage he inspired in those around him.

The film doesn't try to justify Guevara's actions—it seeks to explain them and let the viewer form his or her own opinion. Although there are references to his later life, the film does not delve into it. *The Motorcycle Diaries* is about the beginning of the journey, not the destination. The film attempts to dispel the legend of "El Che" and make him an ordinary person. The attempt succeeds, even though Che is still slightly idealized.



PROVIDED PHOTO

***Y tu Mama Tambien* star Gael Garcia Bernal is a convincing Che Guevara.**

Although the film covers serious issues, it has plenty of funny moments as the friends get themselves into ridiculous situations. Gael Garcia Bernal (*Y tu Mamá También*) is a convincing and likeable Guevara, and the hand-held camera work and sepia-toned photography are used effectively. My only complaints are that the character of Guevara lacks complexity and the plot feels shallow. Also, at a running time of approximately two hours, the movie seems long—especially the beginning. The pace does pick up; however, and the end leaves the viewer thinking, and wanting, more.

Funny and serious, earnest and touching, *The Motorcycle Diaries* is an adventure and an enjoyable ride.

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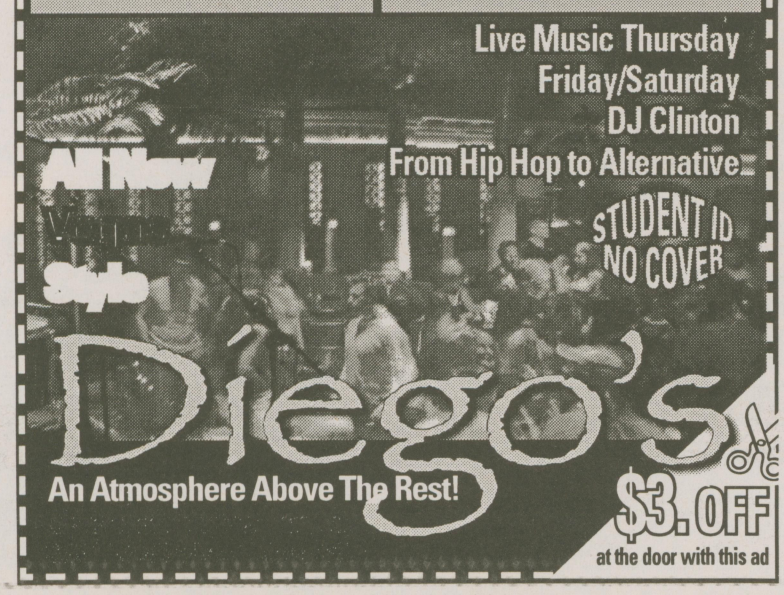

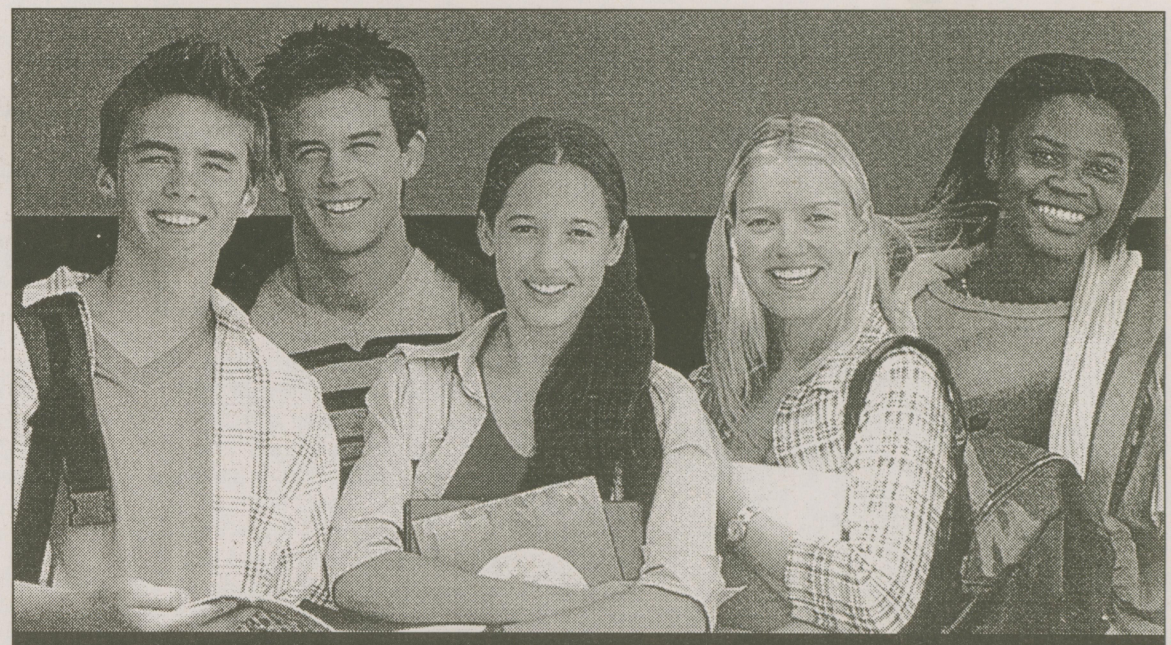

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They've got songs about Norse mythology, pirates and the undead. Oh yes, it's metal.

Real metal never dies

by Chris Devauld

Whatever happened to the days when we used to storm castle walls, slay dragons, travel through hell and fight our way through hordes of demons? I remember a time when everyone I knew had long hair, drove muscle cars, listened to metal and wore tight clothes. Oh yes: I remember the '80s.

Life goes in circles, and metal is no exception. These days most popular metal consists of boy bands playing guitars with distortion. There is no "bad ass," no evil and no effort to invoke our imaginations. The epic storytelling style of legendary metal bands like Iron Maiden and Judas Priest has been pushed out of the spotlight. But Vancouver's underground metal band Three Inches of Blood is breathing life back into this dying genre.

"Real metal will never die," declares vocalist Cam Pipes. "We want people to know that it is still out there."

Starting life in Victoria, B.C., and quickly contaminating the rest of Western Canada, the Three-Inch plague has created a loyal army of listeners who are always eager to spread the word. The band's line-up includes drummer Matt Wood, bassist Brian Redman, vocalists Jamie Hooper and Pipes, and new guitarists Justine Hagberg and Kevin Keegan.

Their constant touring and recent album Battlecry Under a Winter Sun have created a strong fan-base that has even spread the word across the ocean. In fact, they were recently involved in a U.K. tour with The Darkness.

"I am pretty damn sure that I speak for everyone in the band when I say that The Darkness was the best band that we ever played with," says Pipes. The Darkness and Three Inches of Blood share an important view on music: modern stuff sucks. Both bands bring back the legendary rock of the past.

"What was really crazy was that we had to cancel the Glasgow show because [Darkness singer] Justin Hawkins couldn't sing," recalls Pipes, laughing. Hawkins found himself with an unbearably sore throat after trying to sing '80s metal with Three Inches of Blood.

"If I had to describe our music I would say that it is traditional heavy metal with two vocalists," says Pipes.

To an uneducated metal audience, this description could be quite vague. However, the song titles speak for themselves: "Phantom of the Crimson Cloak," "Swordmaster" and "Destroy the Orcs" are just a taste of the band's style. This type of music is not just for Dungeons and Dragons nerds. It is for anyone who enjoys storytelling, imagination and a sense of adventure. The songs narrate tales about Norse mythology, pirates and the undead. The combination of Iron Maiden-influenced guitar and Judas Priest-style vocals creates a deadly mixture of fast, triumphant metal. It will make you wear clothes with spikes and raise your fist in the air.

So why haven't some of you heard of this band? If you enjoyed the movie *Fubar*, then you have nothing to lose. Three Inches of Blood will be destroying Lucky Bar on Oct. 15. But beware, Pipes claims. "We don't like playing too late because we are usually too drunk by then."

So the secret is to beat them to the beer. "If that's the case then everything is great."

Check out Three Inches of Blood at Lucky Bar on Oct. 15. Tickets are available in advance at Lyles Place and Ditch for $12.

Jazz it up

The Young Associates host Jazz in the Mansion

by Andrea Dupuis

Art, live jazz music, drinks and hors d'oeuvres . . . who could resist?

On Oct. 20, the Young Associates will present "Jazz in the Mansion" at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. The Young Associates are a gallery sub-group with members ranging in age from 25 to 55 who organize events throughout the year to raise funds for the gallery.

According to Young Associates president Kerry Liggins, events like Jazz in the Mansion are fun because they never quite know what group they'll get.

Not only can visitors mingle with artist-types and drink martinis, the Young Associates will be giving guided tours of the current exhibit, Herbert Siebner: A Celebration.

Well-known and loved in the community, Siebner is responsible for bringing ideas of German expressionism to Victoria. He passed away in August 2003, and the exhibit is a celebration of his work and contribution to the local art scene.

Attendees can expect to network with like-minded art lovers while enjoying the music of The Paul Minor Dialogue, a local ambient-jazz ensemble who infuse their music with the sounds of post-bop, soul, jazz, bossa nova and swing.

Liggins expects more than 150 people to attend the event, which takes place in the Spencer Gallery. "It is the old part, lots of wood, a really pretty part of the gallery," says Liggins.

Jazz in the Mansion is open to members of the gallery and non-members alike. But it doesn't hurt to become a member. There are quite a few benefits to being a member, says Liggins, including admission to the gallery year round, a discount at the gift shop, and a discount on Young Associates events. "It is a good way to support the art gallery and the events that go on there."

The event is also fun because it is right after work, Liggins says. Visitors can wind down after a long day, socialize in a beautiful atmosphere, tour the amazing work of a prominent local artist and sip on a martini.

Advance tickets for Jazz in the Mansion are $14 for members and $17 for non-members, available at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, 1040 Moss Street. Check out www.aggv.bc.ca for more info. Tickets will be $17 for members and $20 for non-members at the door.

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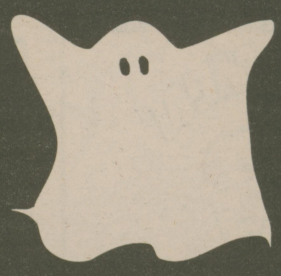

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Zimbabwean music is good for the soul

by Ami Dagan

The upbeat, uplifting traditional Zimbabwean dance music is made for the body—it reaches right into your soul—and suddenly you're unconsciously moving. Whether you're bobbing your head, tapping your foot or in a full-out groove, you'll enjoy the African rhythms reproduced by the local seven-piece band Mufaro.

You may have heard them playing on campus on the second day of class under a tree across from the fountain or busking in downtown Victoria on Government Street. "The best part about playing," says Marti Wood, who plays multiple instruments (all seven members play multiple instruments), "is seeing the whole crowd moving and children doing cartwheels."

Barb Roberts, another band member, says, "Anyone can play, but it's hard to master." What she really enjoys is glancing at the audience and seeing that "everyone smiles" because both the smiles and the music are "fairly addictive."

Here's the proof. This past summer, 13-year-old drummer Alex Campbell was sucked in by the joyful tunes of Mufaro and became the newest part-time member. He was downtown fiddling around with the band's instruments and was asked to play with them.

"I like it. It's fun and cool. Right now, I got a marimba CD in my player, but I still like rock too," says Campbell, who energizes the ensemble with his drum beats. Tim Green, a full-time member, says, with a smile and a laugh, "Yeah, I like it," referring to the drums.

No big wonder the word "Mufaro," translated into English, means "joy." It's the type of sound that makes you dance right out of bed. And if your body doesn't move, then at least your soul joyfully sings.

The genre's origin is perplexing. Many African nations have a history of political oppression, yet their culture has survived due to the enriching sounds that keep their souls singing.

So how did this music arrive here?

During the 1970s and '80s, Dumisani Maraire (who made a guest appearance at UVic for the Zimbabwean Music Festival in 1997) came to the Pacific Northwest, bringing with him the traditional sounds of Shona culture based in southern Zimbabwe. Travelling at the speed of sound, the genre spread across the world. Maraire's masterful teachings were well received.

Sandy Ockenden, a devoted student of Maraire, passed on his teachings to Mufaro by helping the band handcraft their own instruments. Ockenden has since relocated to the Kootenays, but he didn't leave the band empty-handed.

He introduced Mufaro to Garadziva Chigamba, a master in his own right, who helped the band mature. A patient teacher, Chigamba kept his students in stride and in synch, telling them to "start again" when it wasn't working. That phrase became a natural title for their first album (2002).

Check out the band's website www.members.shaw.ca/mufaro/ to see about upcoming shows.

Follow your ears when they are busking downtown and let your feet carry you to Mufaro. It's the best way to get your hands on their CD. Rumor has it that a second disc may be on the way. My fingers are certainly crossed.

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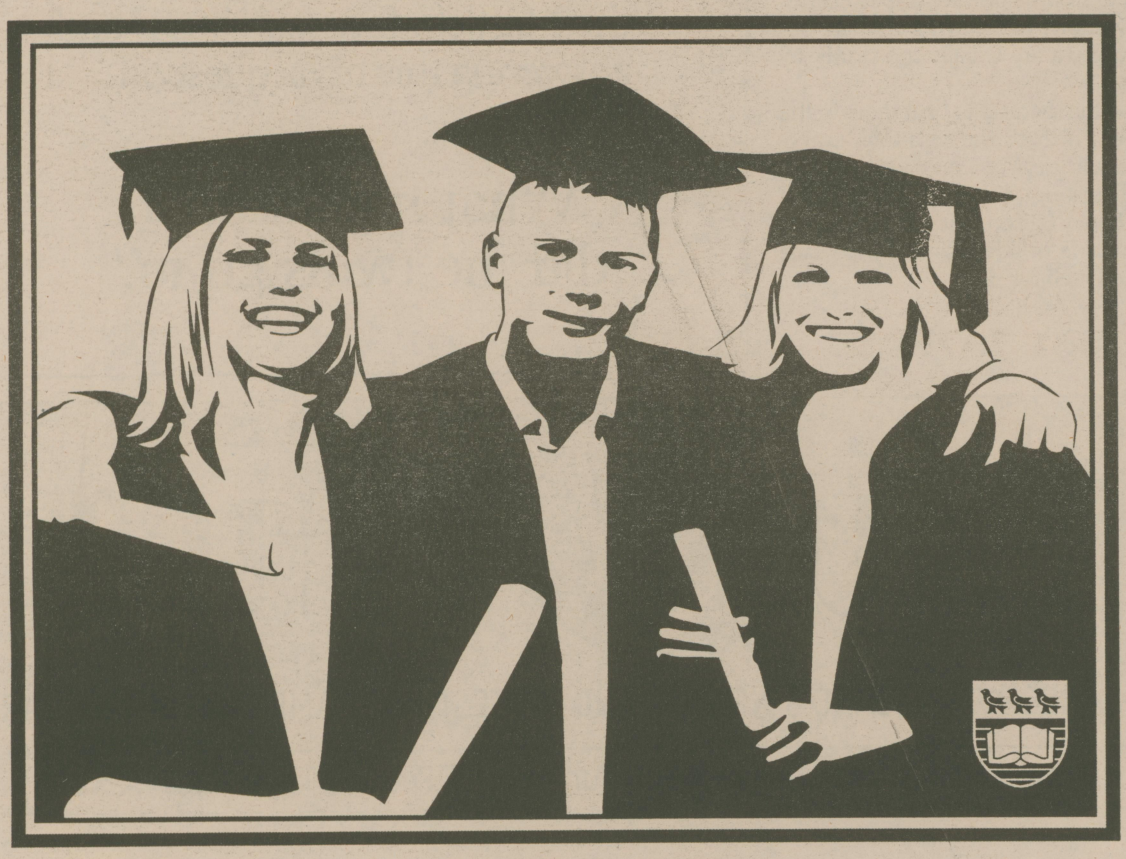

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Look at those lovely eyes. Singer, songwriter, guitar player—she's the total package.

Sarah Harmer's shy charm

by Stephanie Bowen

Sarah Harmer stands alone on stage.

"We were at the Winnipeg Folk Fest last night . . . " The crowd leans forward, anticipating juicy musicians' tales of too much red wine, five-hour jam sessions, schmoozing with the greats of the folk world.

"Yeah. Great time. Of course we're all a little tired . . . today." We, the audience, chuckle and shuffle with discomfort, unsure of the point and nervous for the tiny woman in front of us.

But then Sarah Harmer begins to play.

An oddity in an era of elaborate stage shows and pyrotechnics, this singer has decided to forgo the backup dancers and just sing, independent of all the hoopla. She stands, guitar in hand, band by her side, and opens her world and her experiences to anyone who cares to listen. It's true that her inter-song banter is slightly lacking, but within the first few bars of any one of her folk-rock songs, the transformation to soulful anti-diva is complete, making Harmer one of the most charismatic performers I've seen.

Promoting her latest album *All of our Names*, her "coast-to-coast-to-coast" tour comes to Victoria's McPherson Playhouse tomorrow night. It promises to be a sit-down, get-introspective kind of concert, as Sarah's music rocks out in a purely cerebral way.

Luckily, Sarah is more adept at writing than public speaking, and her lyrics are relatable and subtly poetic, speaking most often of stagnant love, striking loss and pints of beer. Mellow by nature, her music resonates with intelligence and quirky charm—much like the oftentimes-awkward Harmer herself.

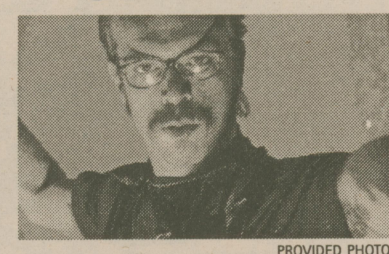
It's been two years since I witnessed her live musical stylings at the Banff Centre in Alberta ("I always, as a kid, wanted a show at the Banff Centre. And now, um, I have one," she said), which means that a previously bare-bones, minimal performance could have undergone a complete overhaul.

Indeed, there's been time enough for Harmer to prepare some witty anecdotes with which to charm and placate her audience. My secret hope? That she's the same old Sarah. Though by no means gritty, her performances ideally mirror her music: they are as unpolished as they are honest.

Sarah Harmer and Josh Ritter will play an all-ages show at the McPherson Playhouse on Friday, Oct. 15. Call 250-386-6121 for ticket prices.

Victoria gets sentenced to death by sexy

by Kristin Evans



PROVIDED PHOTO

Poison is *not* death metal!

Sisters and brothers, we are experiencing an alarming loss of sexy in our city right now. Those of you who've experienced the nastiness of the mid-October cold/flu know what I'm talking about. Anyone who's had to consider using a sleeve in place of a tissue, raise your hand. Or just nod if you ended up using the sleeve.

Thankfully, the Eagles of Death Metal (EODM) will be here soon to help us out. It's a well-known psychological fact that booty shakin' does wonders for those in need of feeling foxy. While their name may suggest Cannibal Corpse covering "Hotel California," the Eagles of Death Metal play what could be called up-tempo, old-school-rock-'n'-roll-flavoured, ass-shaking boogie. In a nutshell.

J Devil Huge, a.k.a. Jesse Hughes, is EODM's moustachioed frontman. Hughes started the band in 2002 with childhood friend Carlos Von Sexron, a.k.a. Baby Duck, a.k.a. Josh Homme of Queens of the Stone Age. A brutal divorce had left Hughes feeling very "unsexy," in his words. Homme, being a good pal, suggested the path to sexy was paved with rock 'n' roll and started jamming with Hughes.

The jam sessions led to J Devil writing the Eagles of Death Metal album, *Peace Love Death Metal*, which he and Homme recorded together in three days. Most of the songs were done in one take. With Homme on drums, J Devil played guitar and provided vocals that sound like equal parts falsetto rock god and Elvis-channelling loverman.

The album had a bit of help from some noted friends: Queens of the Stone Age's Nick Oliveri played bass on a couple tracks, and Brodie Dalle of the Distillers is credited for her hand clapping skills on "Speaking in Tongues."

All name-dropping aside, the integrity of the album is found in J Devil's cathartic musical re-entry into the realm of The Sexy. That is to say, the man has created songs that lend themselves to strippin' on down. I propose an experiment: get your main flame on over to your place, perhaps crack a couple cold ones, then throw on "Peace Love Death Metal." I predict even the most bashful of souls will question the merits of outerwear after a couple songs.

For those curious about the allusion to death metal in the band's name, allow me to quote an interview J Devil gave to Perfect Pitch.

"We were in the back of a VW van, shit-faced and loaded. We'd just been in a bar, and some guy kept playing Poison and saying, 'This is death metal!' I finally said, 'Dude, this is the fucking Eagles of death metal.' Then we looked at each other and busted up laughing."

Anyone wanting a preview of EODM's self-proclaimed "death by sexy" live show can boot-scoot on over to www.eaglesofdeathmetal.net and check their "Live at Slim's" concert recording.

If you like what you hear, see you at Lucky Bar on Saturday, Oct. 16.

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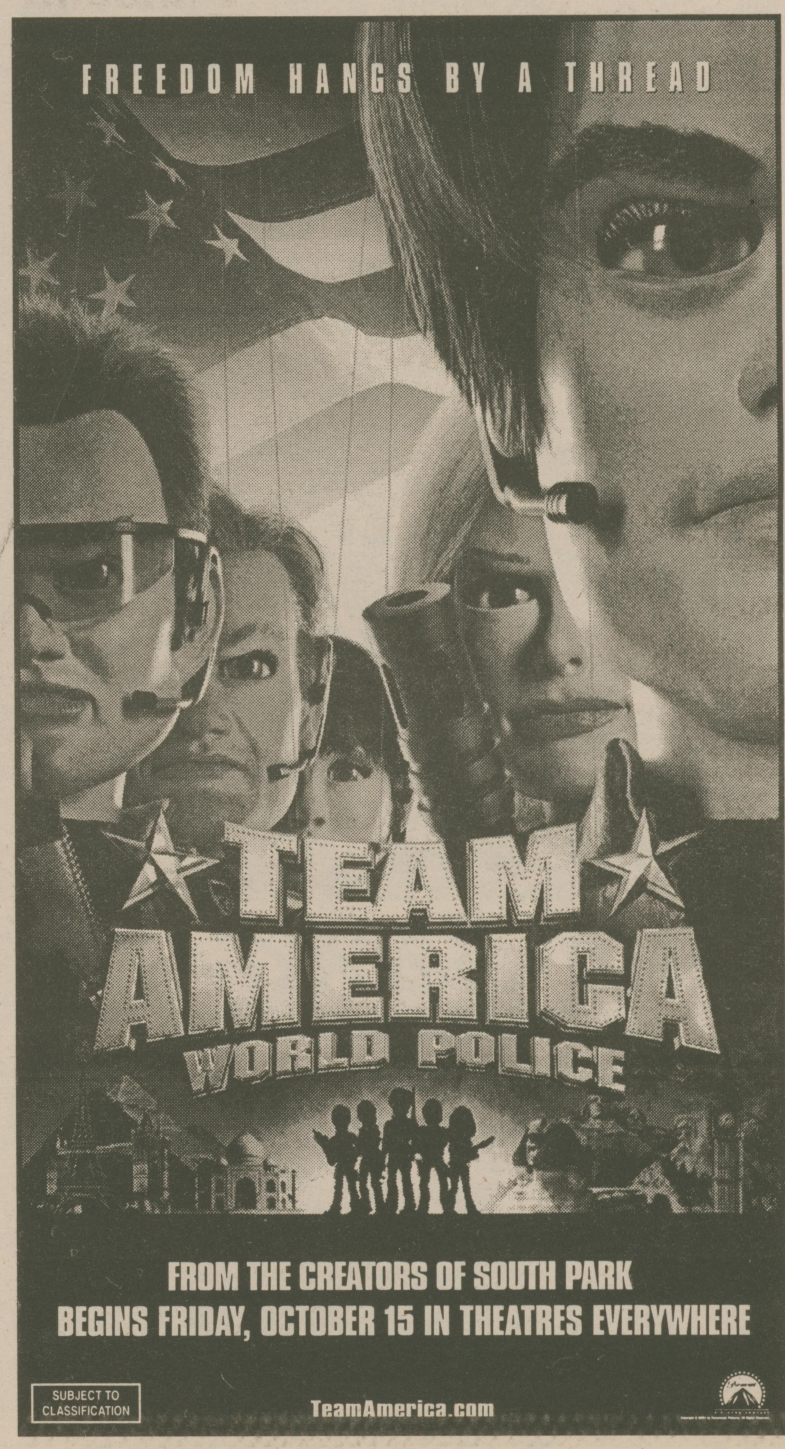

A dynamic trio of CDs

The message is the music
Asian Dub Foundation
Enemy of the Enemy
EMI

by Josh Hodson

In an age when it seems every second song on every second record has something to do with terrorism, globalization or 9/11, Asian Dub Foundation (ADF) fits like that missing puzzle piece you found under the couch amid dust bunnies and discarded socks. The five-member band puts out an incredible variety of sounds including hard reggae-jungle rhythms, Indo-dub basslines, rising sitar-inspired guitars and talk tracks gleaned from older sources. Unfortunately, their lyrics sound like a blend of every other punk-techno-rap band, which gives the innovative background sounds a tainted feel.

Then again, that is too broad a generalization because there are tracks where nothing North American or anti-American shines through and you can see down to the Indian heritage of the band's members. Tracks such as "Dhol Rinse" and "Cyberabad" let the listener just relax and let it all go, wrapped in the resonance. On the flip side of such wholesome musical delights are tracks with genuine, modern musical merits. "Fortress Europe" is a driving techno work of art, while "1000 Mirrors" drifts woefully along to the lilt of Sinead O'Connor, whose voice lends the ADF boys something fresh and catchy.

But what is this? A band that promotes itself, on its own record, with a song that bears a striking resemblance to an anthem? ADF likes to preach about the dangers of globalization but then proceeds to go ahead and do something like this, which seems contrary to the whole spirit of freedom. It is mainly the messages that suffer when ADF preaches in such an overt manner. While listeners may understand the message, ADF's in-your-face-on-every-track attitude may be a bit much after listening to the first half of the record.

The album's few merits are not nearly enough to save it from musical suicide, as it beats itself to death against the bulkhead of preachy new-agedness. The message is so prominent that it gets in the way of enjoying the music. It will take every ounce of your concentration to block out the message and enjoy the music.

Short, fast and damn tasty
Social Code
A Year at the Movies
Interscope Records

by Rebecca Peric

Social who? That would be Social Code. C-O-D-E. Code. Remember that name.

It's hard to come by people who know the band Social Code. Despite their constant touring throughout Canada and their radio time, they're still relatively unknown. Most people would assume this is because they're only a half-decent act with a few loyal followers. However, SoCo (for short) is an extremely gifted rock band.

A Year at the Movies' first track, "Beautiful," has had quite a bit of radio play over the last few months. With lyrics such as, "People always try and put me down but I/ I don't give a fuck what people say . . . I'm not ever gonna fall in line/'Cause I/I don't wanna be another plastic mind," it's easy to see why the song's popular with the kids.

Like so many new bands, many of SoCo's lyrics are about "you and me," but their music isn't at all over-emotional. Instead of simpering Backstreet Boys bullshit, the band's lyrics run along the lines of, "I've wasted so much time on you/Goodbye . . . I'm so happy now you're just a face in the crowd," from track three, "Gone Away."

Although the music falls on the heavier side of the rock spectrum, Social Code's tunes have a contrasting melody that offsets the crunchy guitar. Screamo anger edges its way in, not with Deftones-level angst, but it is sufficient to obliterate any chance of SoCo being labelled a fluffy little rock band.

Lead singer Travis Nesbitt has one of those beautiful voices with a mild, gravelly rasp. Unlike some other singers, Nesbitt's vocal style is never hard on the ears: he's always in tune with the music.

One nice thing about *A Year at the Movies*: the longest song is three minutes and 22 seconds. This means no boring, long-winded intros. Songs are short and sweet, and they get down to play (or business, as the saying goes) right away.

In track nine, "Flurry," Nesbitt sings, "Here we go again/This time we won't swerve out of control/We've got it in our hands/This time we won't let it go." Well, they better keep on going and not let go of their music because they're too good to stay a secret forever.

Tunes for a teenage wasteland
Green Day
American Idiot
Warner

by Kevin Nakanishi

Ten years ago, Green Day released *Dookie*, the album that exploded punk rock into the mainstream. Three lukewarm albums and countless knock-off bands followed (hello, Simple Plan), but with *American Idiot*, Green Day have finally surpassed their 1994 classic.

At first, *American Idiot* seems reassuringly familiar. Much of the album revisits the hyperactive, insanely catchy punk-pop that made *Dookie* so glorious. However, this is not the Green Day you remember. Gone are songwriter Billie Joe Armstrong's odes to teenage boredom and masturbation. In their place is a storyline that spans and unites the entire record. A young suburbanite runs away to escape a troubled home, and the listener follows him through an idiot America overflowing with Ritalin, divorce, media hysteria and disillusionment. Yes, it's a concept album. No, it doesn't suck. The band just rocks too hard to suck.

The punk songs are just the beginning. In "Jesus of Suburbia," the band blends pianos, glockenspiel, and Sabbath-approved headbanging into a power-pop mini-symphony. The ballad "Boulevard of Broken Dreams" approaches melodrama but works, thanks to the band's heartfelt execution. However, the real moment of truth arrives in "Homecoming," a five-part collection that channels The Who's sense of epic rock.

Punk snobs might call this album Green Day's final kiss off to credibility. In truth, the band's music and scope have simply outgrown the boundaries of the genre. With *American Idiot*, Green Day have made the smartest, strongest and most exciting record of their career. It may have taken a decade, but the teenage wasteland finally has a new soundtrack.

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NIC HUME PHOTO

Alumnus Eli Pasquali, left, tries to steal the ball from the Vikes' Shaun Doherty in the Alumni game last weekend.

UVic men's b-ball team makes presence known

by Tori Wong

The UVic men's basketball team treated fans to a preview of what they can expect in the upcoming season during an exhibition game on Saturday versus the Alumni.

The Vikes varsity team won 89–60.

Less than three minutes into the game, alumnus Eli Pasquali scored a three-pointer for the Alumni. But it was not long before the Vikes answered with their own scoring drive, which set the flavour for a tit-for-tat first half.

By the second half, legs prevailed over experience. The Vikes transformed their youthful exuberance into a consistent and effective effort against the Alumni, who seemed to be fading fast.

This surge of energy was exemplified by Tyler Hass' drive to the net in classic slam-dunk form as the crowd roared in approval.

Although the Alumni had talent and determination, they were no match for the vitality of the Vikes. Pasquali, a UVic alumnus who played from 1979–84, spoke highly of this year's varsity team.

"They are going to be a fun team," he said. "They really need to support each other and are really going to be exciting to watch."

Craig Beauchamp, the Vikes new head coach, said he is "happy about the work ethic of the group." However, he realizes problems are inevitable, with consistency being the biggest challenge for the team.

Though the victory over the Alumni is seemingly one over a bunch of old guys, it provided a significant challenge for the team. For the first time this year, they came together under game conditions, and with the win they received an added dividend of confidence.

The Vikes face their next challenge Oct. 15 at a tournament in Ottawa at Carleton University.

Debates hit national airwaves

Kerry and Bush duke it out verbally for voters

by Aaron Williams

U.S. popular culture has traditionally welcomed the end of summer for two reasons: the new fall television lineup and a plentiful harvest of sporting events including MLB playoffs, the NFL season and the NBA preseason.

However, this year, a new candidate has been fighting for the increasingly short attention span of the viewing public.

"In the blue corner, wearing a red tie, hailing from parts unknown, your Vietnam swift boat captain and Democratic champion, Massachusetts senator John Kerry!"

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to America's new reality television sporting event. (Boxscores on page 6.)

"The way to defeat hatred and tyranny and oppression is to spread freedom."—Bush.

"I will hunt down and kill the terrorists wherever they hide."—Kerry (narrowly avoiding a 90-second response clock violation).

Given the overtime cliffhanger of Election 2000, coupled with two candidates who are willing to use (and reuse) simple keywords organized into sound-bite-friendly sentences, it's not surprising that this year's quad-annual U.S. Presidential Debating Championships of the World has become a smash hit.

In its commercial-free season premiere, the first presidential debate tallied 62.5 million viewers, give or take a few hanging chads. This far exceeds the number of viewers who tuned into Fox Sport's baseball coverage. Even the statistics heavy undercard featuring vice-president Dick Cheney and newcomer John Edwards scored 43.6 million overnight viewers.

Of course, the title "U.S. Presidential Debating Champion of the World" is a bit of a misnomer. True, the winner does claim the free world as his prize, but to use John Kerry's words, calling it a debate is "not being straight with the American people." Perhaps the old French word *battre*—to beat—would be more appropriate. Like to beat a dead horse. Or to beat a terrorist dead. (Oops. Abu Ghraib is off limits.)

When the four principle contestants, given 45 minutes apiece, combine to say "terror," "Iraq" and "Saddam" over 300 times, the image of a debate gets knocked out in favour of a slugfest.

At least this slugfest debating style is consistent with the brand of foreign policy being offered up by the presidential candidates. According to these Yale-educated men, sheer power is the only solution to foreign troubles.

Certainly, it wasn't this heavy-handed ideology that helped to spark terrorism in the first place and continues to fuel it today. (Recall that Osama bin Laden began his personal jihad against the United States in retaliation for the American military overstaying its welcome in post-Gulf War Saudi Arabia.) Given their strong commitment to force, one would have expected a more enthusiastic response to the Vietnam War than hiding in the Texas Air Guard, or throwing war medals over the White House gates in protest.

Yes, the U.S. presidential race, the culmination of western democracy—a style of government that has been forcibly installed in two countries since the last U.S. election—has become a monotone sound-bite of hatred.

At least it makes for great television.

Pressure's on for Canada's soccer team at FIFA qualifier

by Gavin Day

Though they were ahead going into the last few minutes of Saturday's game, a late goal by Honduras' Danilo Turcios, tying the game at one apiece, almost guarantees Canada's demise in the 2006 FIFA World Cup.

The 1–1 tie almost ensures that Canada will not advance any further in qualifying rounds to be held in Germany.

After beating Belize 8–0 over two games, the Canadians were drawn into arguably the toughest of three semi-final groups in the area encompassing North and Central America, as well as the Caribbean.

These wins ultimately grouped Canada with teams such as Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras, who are all ranked higher than the red and white.

Canada's opening game in this semi-final round of qualifying began with an uninspired 2–0 loss to Guatemala in Burnaby on Aug. 18. Their next game was against Honduras in Edmonton on Sept. 4. Canada seemed to have the win locked up when they went ahead 1–0, but terrible officiating not only allowed Honduras to score, it also disallowed a second Canadian goal in which no foul was committed. This game too resulted in a 1–1 tie.

In Costa Rica on Sept. 8, Canada was on the losing end of a 1–0 game. Though Canada made only one mistake, it proved costly. This set up Saturday's encounter with Honduras in San Pedro Sula.

In this match Canada was the first to go ahead. They went up 1–0 in the 73rd minute when Atiba Hutchinson scored off a corner kick. Moments later, Dwayne de Rosario had a seemingly legitimate goal disallowed after Canadian defender Jason deVos was judged to have fouled a Honduran player just before heading de Rosario the ball. This second goal would have provided the cushion needed to ensure the victory and give Canada three very important points. Instead, the Honduran goal was the equalizer and it all but dashed Canadian hopes of advancing.

The current standings see Guatemala atop the group with seven points, followed by Honduras and Costa Rica, both with six, and Canada last with two. Unfortunately for Canada, only the top two teams will advance to the final round of qualifying.

Canada needs to win its two remaining games and have some favourable results from other games in the group. By the time this paper is printed, Canada will have played Costa Rica in Burnaby on Wednesday, so Canada could be mathematically eliminated, or the outlook may be a little brighter.

Outgames set for Montreal

by Ryan Matwiy

MONTRÉAL (CUP)—From July 29 to Aug. 6, 2006, Montreal will play host to the first World Outgames.

"We wanted to offer the world's LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered) community a sport and cultural festival on an unprecedented scale, one that will be financially viable and distinguished by its spirit of openness," said Outgames co-president Mark Tewksbury.

This is the first major sporting event for the Gay and Lesbian International Sport Association (GLISA), founded to promote queer culture through sport.

There will be a range of events taking place around the city. Olympic Park, the Palais des Congrès and the Village, among other locations will be among the venues.

"Montréal is proud to affirm support of the gay and lesbian community, which gives our city an image of tolerance and cultural dynamism from which we all benefit," said Michel Prescott, vice-president of the City of Montréal executive committee, in a press release.

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THE UNUSUAL SIDE OF SPORTS

An intro to Battle Croq

STEPHANIE BOWEN PHOTO

Three Battle Croq militia men convert their backyard into a croquet war zone that would make a British gentleman shiver in his white socks.

by Stephanie Bowen

Does croquet bring to mind images of parasols, tea and crumpets, and white lace gloves? Well, no more. Like so many dated pastimes, croquet has been revamped.

Under the influence (ahem, ahem) of sweltering summer nights, a group of local young men with an ample backyard and too much time on their hands have extreme-icized the delicate art of whacking wooden balls.

It plays out like this: each wicket is treated much like a mini-golf hole, with a variety of ingenius obstacles surrounding it. The original course boasts holes such as the Pirate Pillars of Man, a randomly placed collection of cinderblocks sporting an odious pirate flag that must be navigated for successful completion.

Another is the Plinko Forest, so-named in honour of loveable Bob Barker and that nutty game show, *The Price is Right*. At this stop each soldier must essentially nail their ball as hard as possible to send it through a veritable labyrinth of logs, much like the small plastic disc that must travel through the Plinko board of its namesake.

Courses can also contain non-wicket-related obstacles and topographical challenges such as the Valley of Infinite Despair, a large divot in the lawn that proves deadly while rounding the final hole.

Each player must follow the path and conclude by hitting the end post with their ball. General rules of the game still apply: nestling up next to another player's ball allows the opportunity to send it flying, although considering the terrain, this option can prove far more devious.

Trash talking is encouraged and beverages are required, adding yet another more interesting obstacle to the game. Got an urge to play late at night? No problem. An intricate system of floor lamps and extension cords provide all the night vision necessary.

Reader be warned: Battle Croq is not for the faint of heart. Labour-intensive course creation aside, the rigours of the game can reduce a player to their most basic, animalistic inner self. Imagine your competitors have all successfully carried out the delicacy of wicket #4, the Haunted House, and are now rounding the Valley of Infinite Despair. You, however, have been over-exuberant, having overshot the ramp and face an added four make-up strokes, minimum.

As you swing, back swing and over-swing, you watch your supposed comrades grow small on the horizon, leaving you alone to face your demons and their merciless taunts. The strain has broken many a soldier, who in turn has broken many a mallet.

Unlike its predecessor, Battle Croq is a dynamic sport, updated with every round forged. New rules, new challenges and new rewards always arise. The first-timer is advised to step lightly. Arrange a moderate course to test your ability, using materials that can be found around the home. Oven grates, bricks, two-by-fours and especially heating ducts provide fodder for combative works of art, provided the proper amount of creativity is harnessed.

Let your imagination run wild. Remember, in the heat of Battle Croq, anything is possible.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Field hockey in solid second

The Vikes women's field hockey team was in Alberta this past weekend trying to improve their second ranked status. They won their first two games but lost their last to UBC 2–1.

Overall the Vikes remain firmly in second place, with a record of 4–2. They play host to the third and final Canada West tournament from Oct. 22 to 24.

Men's soccer tie vs. TWU

UVic's men's soccer team remain tied for first place after this weekend's match against Trinity Western University.

Going down by one goal early in the game, they were able to score in extra time just before the game ended. The final tally was one apiece and their current record becomes 4–1–2. UVic's next action will be Saturday against visiting UBC.

Women's soccer lose vs. TWU

The sun did not come out this weekend for the women's soccer team in their match against TWU. Luck remained on the sidelines as many opportunities presented themselves, but they could not capitalize.

The 3–0 loss puts UVic and TWU in a tie overall, each with a record of 4–2–2. UVic's next match is a rematch against TWU on Oct. 15 in Langley.

—compiled by M.B.

Classifieds

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African Drumming Workshop
Sunday, UVic campus. Drums provided. For info call 384-DRUM.

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VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Considering Volunteering?
Give something back to your community, while having a great time doing it. Here at Recreation Integration Victoria we facilitate active lifestyles for people with disabilities. If you can spare 1-2 hours a week you may have the opportunity to change someone's life. To get involved or for more information, please call Danielle at 477-6314

ON CAMPUS

Mountains Melting: A Photography Exhibit in Memory. Sat., Oct. 23, 7p.m.-10 p.m. SUB Upper lounge, UVic. Mountain Photography exhibit & sale of photographs by Steve Canning, a 4th year ES student who died May 23, 2004, descending from the summit of Mt. Logan. Raffle + silent auction of some sweet, sweet outdoors trips + gear. Showing of "SHRED", Steve's documentary on the dangerous sport of grass-skiing. Live music by Smeet + Co. 100 per cent profits to the Stephen Canning Memorial Scholarship Fund. Entrance by donation. Contact shandell@uvic.ca for info.

SPEAK OUT!
Interested in promoting awareness of human rights issues in Canada and abroad? Get involved with JOURNALISTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS! (Not just for journalists) Meeting Wed. Oct. 13 at 4 p.m. Contact Bryna at jhr_uvic@yahoo.ca for more info.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greater Victoria Police Choir. An organization comprised of Police Service and Commnity Members who give freely of their time to promote harmony, good will and to provide a better understanding between the police and the public, as well as to improve fraternal relations among the police services of the Greater Victoria. This choir is internationally renowned. Friday, Oct. 29 at 7:30 p.m.

Victoria Hindu temple presents an exciting evening of dance & music "Diwali 2004." Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. at University Centre. Tickets: $10, $8 children (under 12).
Contact Usha Agarwal for tickets: 384-1521

The West Coast Women's Legal Education and Action fund, which works to challange gender inequality using Canada's Charter, holds its 10th annual Person's Day Breakfast on Thursday, Oct. 21 this year. This event celebrates the 75th anniversary of the recognition of women as legal persons by a groundbreaking Privy Council decision. The Breakfast takes place from 7a.m.-9 a.m. at the Princess May Restaurant. The keynote speaker is well-known *Sun* journalist Daphne Bramham, who will speak on the polygamist community of Bountiful, B.C. Tickets are $30. The venue is wheelchair accessible and there will be sign-language interpretation. For more information, please contact Ramona Reynolds at 383-2356 or Kim Hart Wensley at 721-8190.

VENUS RISING!
The Greater Vancouver Island Sculptors Guild will have an exhibit and sale of sculpture created from a variety of materials to capture man's whimsical, emotional and imaginative relationship with the sea at The Maritime Museum of BC, Bastion Square, Victoria. Show runs until Oct. 17. Hours are daily from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (250) 642-6065.

Good-Hearted Volunteers Needed!
At Recreation Integration Victoria we facilitate active lifestyles for people with disabilities. By making only a small time commitment, you could have the power to change someone's life. Looking for volunteers to provide one-on-one assistance for people with disabilities in a recreational setting. To get involved or for more information, please call Dustin at 477-6314

MENTORS NEEDED
Mentor an elementary student 1 hr/week. Play games, sports, make crafts, read and cook. For more info. call Bonnie at Big Brothers Big Sisters 475-1117, ext. 46

Be a Human Rights Observer in Chiapas, Mexico. Training session Oct. 22-24, Sponsored by the Building Bridges Human Rights Project in Chiapas. call 384-7843

FOR SALE

OPERA TICKET - One $70 ticket to *Norma* on Sat., Oct. 16, yours for only $25! Call 592-2721.

POOL TABLE - Not slate top. Felt is in great shape. Two cues, billboard and snooker balls. $200 obo. 721-2523
FREE-HIDE-A-BED - No tears or holes. Needs a little cleaning. 721-2523.

1986 VW Cabriolet. White, new top, new tires & MORE!!! Runs great! $3,250 call 595-6149.

1988 Toyota Tercel. Runs well. Good student transportation. $1,200 call 658-2783.

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Smith Corona XD 4800 English/French Word Processing Typewriter, with 75,000 word Dictionary, in A1 condition. Includes extra ribbon, metal typewriter table and Living French Language Course all for $100.
Contact Eric Dowse at eedowse@shaw.ca
Phone 592-9766 or FAX 592-9763

HEY YOU!

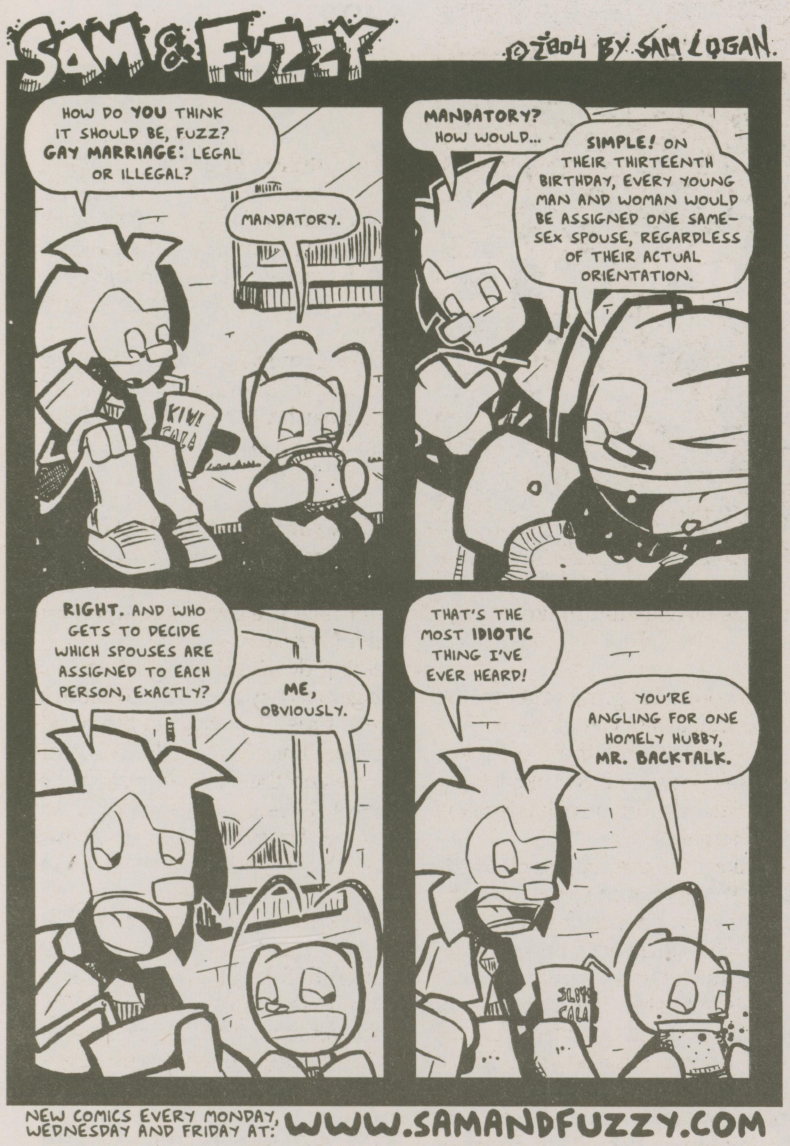
You: tall, cute, shy International Socialist with cap. Me: short, cute, serves you coffee sometimes, always smiles at you, also shy (EXTREMELY). Are you interested at all? Let me know.

Hey UVic! Pull up your pants!

It's October. I really should be studying, doing homework, writing essays. But instead I sit here thinking of you. Yes, it's a foolish thing to do, but I can't really help myself.

CLASSIFIED RATES

Students and clubs | $2/issue
Non-students | $2/line
Businesses | $6/line
Hey you! | free


SAM & FUZZY
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HOW DO YOU THINK IT SHOULD BE, FUZZ? GAY MARRIAGE: LEGAL OR ILLEGAL?
MANDATORY.
MANDATORY? HOW WOULD...
SIMPLE! ON THEIR THIRTEENTH BIRTHDAY, EVERY YOUNG MAN AND WOMAN WOULD BE ASSIGNED ONE SAME-SEX SPOUSE, REGARDLESS OF THEIR ACTUAL ORIENTATION.
RIGHT. AND WHO GETS TO DECIDE WHICH SPOUSES ARE ASSIGNED TO EACH PERSON, EXACTLY?
ME, OBVIOUSLY.
THAT'S THE MOST IDIOTIC THING I'VE EVER HEARD!
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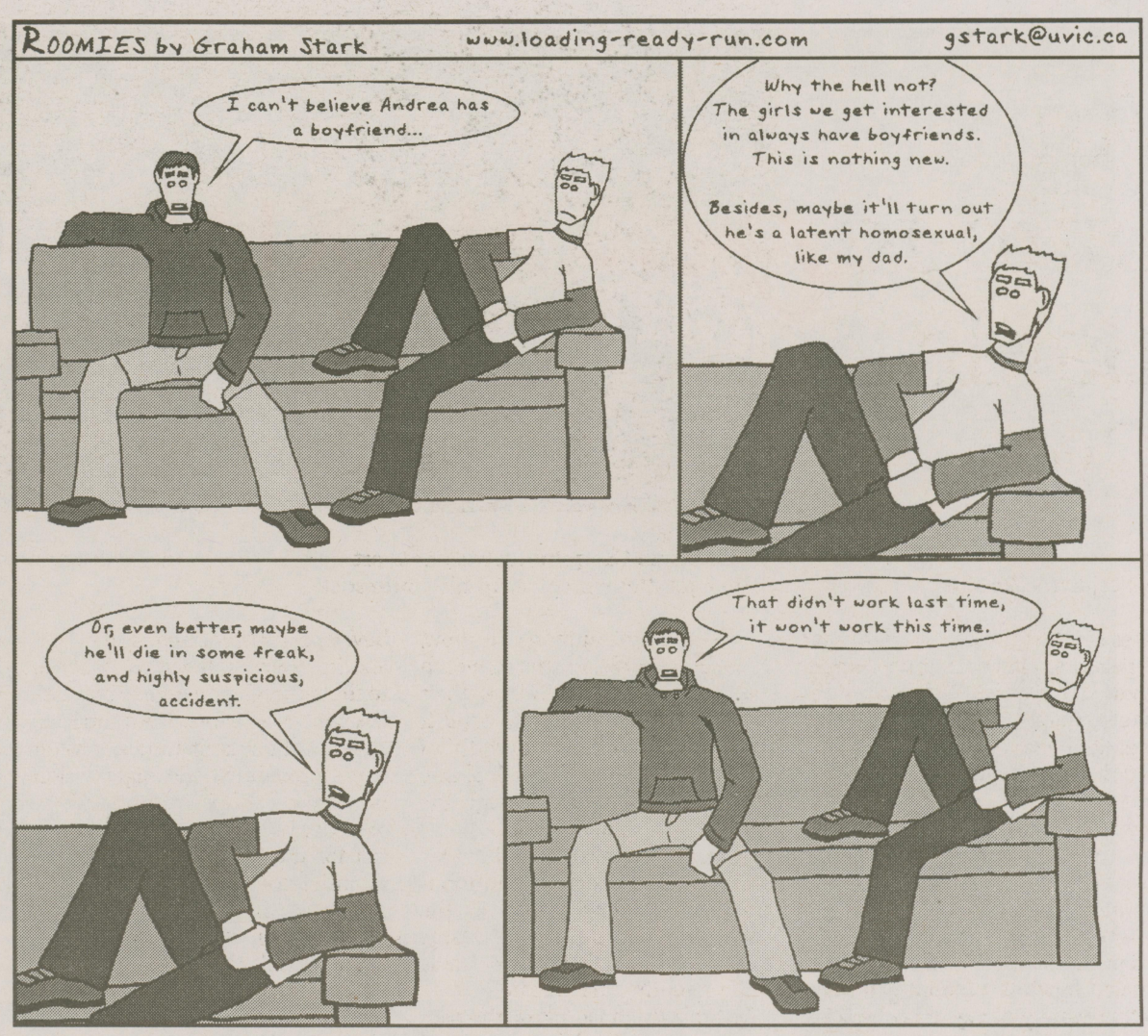
ROOMIES by Graham Stark
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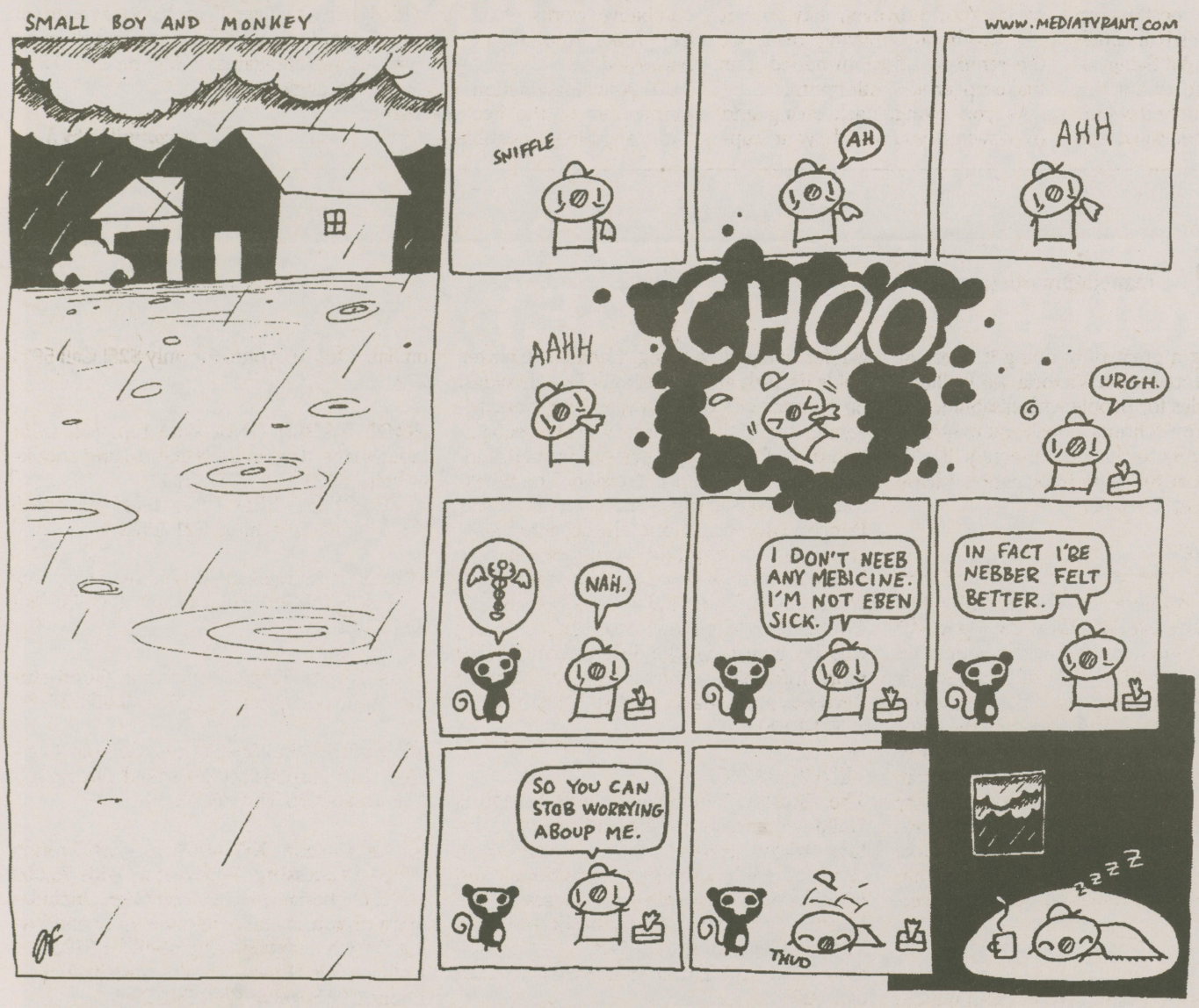
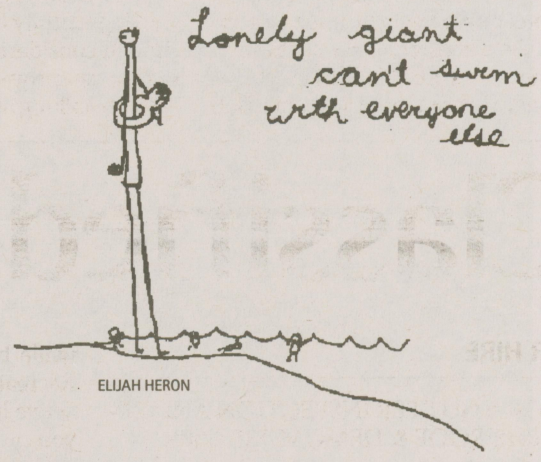
I can't believe Andrea has a boyfriend...
Why the hell not? The girls we get interested in always have boyfriends. This is nothing new.
Besides, maybe it'll turn out he's a latent homosexual, like my dad.
Or, even better, maybe he'll die in some freak, and highly suspicious, accident.
That didn't work last time, it won't work this time.





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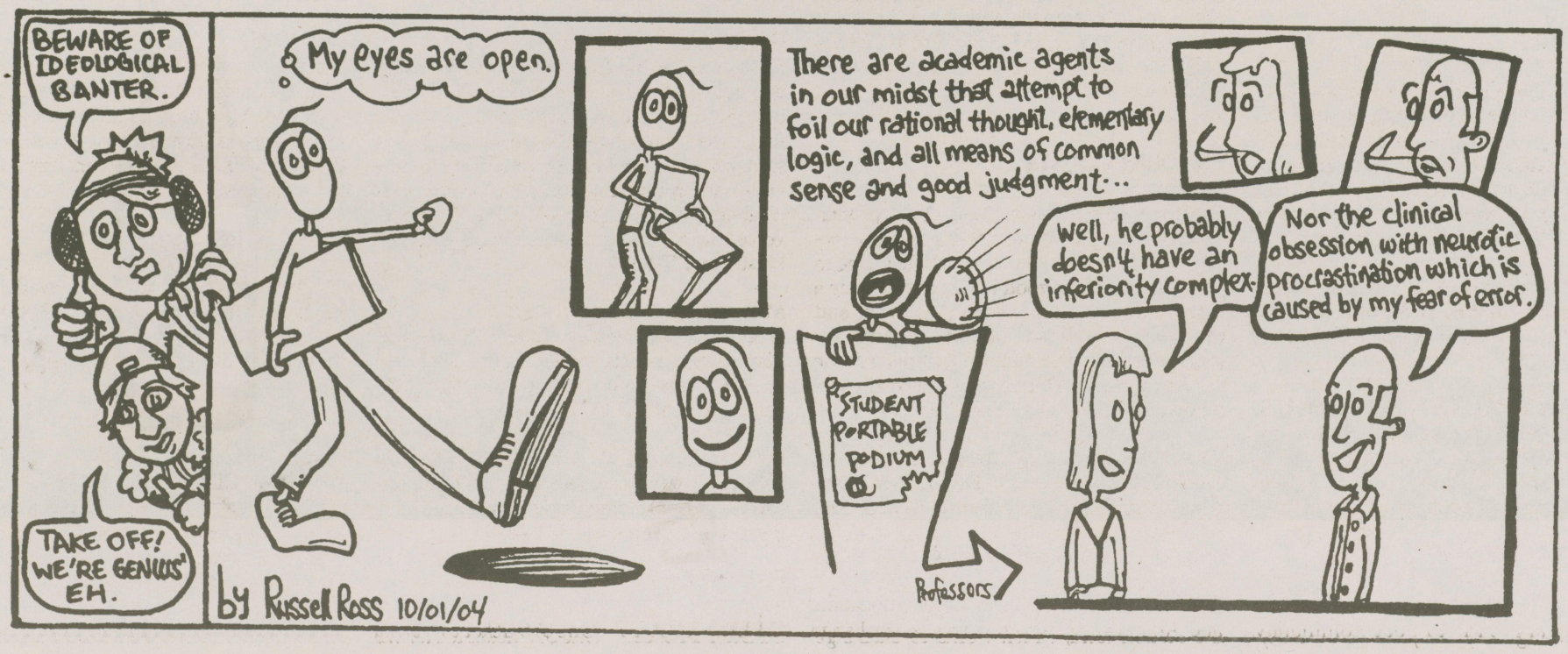
BEWARE OF IDEOLOGICAL BANTER.
TAKE OFF! WE'RE GENIUS' EH.
My eyes are open.
There are academic agents in our midst that attempt to foil our rational thought, elementary logic, and all means of common sense and good judgment...
STUDENT PORTABLE PODIUM
Professors
Well, he probably doesn't have an inferiority complex.
Nor the clinical obsession with neurotic procrastination which is caused by my fear of error.
by Russell Ross 10/01/04

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Ottawa November 8 **Capital Music Hall**
Toronto November 10 **This is London**
London November 14 **Club Phoenix**
Hamilton November 17 **Fever Night Club**
Windsor November 20 **The Thirsty Scholar**
Montreal November 25 **Complexe Millennium**
Quebec City November 27 **Le Palace**
Moncton December 1 **Oxygen Night Club**
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